

Reagan meets Arab delegation

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan on Friday told an Arab League delegation that the United States strongly supported a negotiated settlement to the Iran-Iraq war, the White House said. The delegation, led by North Yemen Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Iryani, is consulting members of the United Nations Security Council after an Arab League meeting in Tunis last month that called for an end to the more than six-year-old conflict. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Mr. Reagan reaffirmed the strong U.S. commitment to a prompt negotiated settlement of the war. "He also stressed the U.S. commitment to the security of our friends in the region and the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz," Fitzwater said. The group met Secretary of State George Shultz on Thursday. Mr. Shultz assured them the administration was vigorously working to deny arms to Iran after the secret sale of weapons to Tehran in 1985 and last year (see story on page 2).

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King attends prayers at Aqaba mosque

AQABA (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday attended prayers at the grand mosque in Aqaba. Also attending the prayers with His Majesty were Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and senior officials. In Amman, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan attended prayers at Al Hussein Mosque in downtown Amman. Also attending the prayer with the Crown Prince were Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, his Under-Secretary Abdul Salam Al Abbadi and senior government officials.

Arab League criticises Hungary

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League said Friday it had urged Hungary not to allow the World Jewish Congress (WJC) to hold its annual congress in Budapest this week. The league said it asked Hungary, the first communist state in which the WJC held such a meeting, not to do so until the organisation "renounced its racist options and policies contrary to international principles and resolutions, as well as human rights." Hungary's decision was all the more surprising because of its attachment to "socialist principles rejecting all organisations based on racial and religious considerations," the league said in a statement. It said the WJC continued to support Israel's "policy of aggression and racial discrimination ... against the Palestinian people and Arab states."

U.S. team to visit Austria

VIENNA (R) — A senior delegation from the U.S. Justice Department, which last week barred Austrian President Kurt Waldheim from making private visits to the United States, will visit Vienna next week, a spokesman for the chancellery said Friday. The delegation will include Deputy Attorney-General Mark Richards as well as Neil Sher, head of the Office of Special Investigations, which drew up a report on Dr. Waldheim's World War II record that formed the basis for the U.S. ban. Government sources said they were coming on Friday at the request of the Austrian government and would stay one day.

Conservatives gain in British elections

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party gained strongly in municipal elections, bolstering speculation Friday that Mrs. Thatcher will hold a general election next month, one year early. Conservative Party chairman Norman Tebbit claimed the results of Thursday's poll put the Tories "on our way to another terrific victory" that would give Mrs. Thatcher an unprecedented third successive term in office. Asked if that meant a June election, he said: "It could be." He also mentioned a possible autumn date. With 351 of the 369 districts decided, the British Broadcasting Corporation said the Conservatives held 118 cities and towns, a net gain of four, and Labour 102, down 7. The alliance had won 10 districts, including two net gains. The remainder went to independents or produced no single winner.

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Israelis stage third attack in 8 days, claim 11 more Arab lives

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — At least 11 people were killed when Israeli jets hit Palestinian camps in South Lebanon on Friday in the third Israeli attack on South Lebanon in eight days.

Police said at least 11 people, including two children, were killed and 40 were wounded when missiles slammed into a cluster of houses inside the big 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp southeast of Sidon.

Palestinians said 10 women and children had been killed. They said many of the casualties were inflicted by a single Israeli missile which hit the entrance to a bomb shelter.

Palestinians and rescue workers were still searching for victims, clawing with bare hands at the rubble of a dozen houses levelled in the raid. Another 25 houses were damaged.

Witnesses quoted by news agencies said six warplanes, covered by six other jets flying at high altitude, also fired missiles at six houses in hills around 'Ain Al Hilweh and the smaller Mieh Mieh camp.

Palestinian sources said the bases belonged to the Fateh faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). No fighters were injured in the attack, they added.

The raid came less than one hour after the PLO, in a statement issued in this southern city, said three of its fighters had been killed by Israeli troops who intercepted them on their way to the

border. Abu Yasser, a PLO military commander, told reporters: "We now feel it is our right to strike at Israeli targets inside and outside Israel in revenge for our innocent martyrs."

Israeli jets struck a civilian district of 'Ain Al Hilweh on May 6, killing 10 people and destroying a score of houses. Eighteen people, including two children, were killed at Mieh Mieh on May 1 in Israel's most deadly air raid this year.

The PLO statement said its fighters clashed with an Israeli patrol near Teir Harfa village about three kilometres north of the border, inside an Israeli-declared "security zone."

In Tel Aviv an Israeli spokesman said two fighters who were trying to cross the border were killed and three others were wounded and captured.

The PLO statement said the fighters "clashed for more than six hours with the Israelis which led to the killing or injury of around 15 Israeli soldiers." It added that Israeli helicopters took part in the skirmish.

The statement said the fighters belonged to a martyr group of the May 6 air raid on 'Ain Al Hilweh. It named the three dead as Subeil Mohammad Ismael Abu

Zeid, Bassam Ali Ghanam, and Majed Abdul Kader Ramadan. The statement was accompanied by their photographs.

It said they headed for the attack inside Israel guided by orders from the PLO and a decision by the Palestine National Council (PNC) to "step up the armed struggle against the enemy in the occupied land."

Zeid Webbeh, a senior PLO official in Lebanon, had threatened harsh action against Israel in retaliation for the raid on 'Ain Al Hilweh.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat vowed on Wednesday to step up arms-smuggling into Lebanon to defend the Palestinian camps and to launch attacks against Israeli positions.

"I buy arms on the black market and smuggle them into Lebanon," he said. "It is difficult to smuggle heavy weapons, but I got the SAM-7 (anti-aircraft) missiles in and if I find someone to sell me SAM-6s, by God, I'll get them in."

On Thursday, resistance men said they killed or wounded 18 Israeli-backed militiamen in an ambush on a tank-led patrol near the southern town of Jezzine.

A spokesman for the Iranian-backed Islamic Resistance said its guerrillas ambushed an armoured patrol of the Israeli-sponsored South Lebanon Army militia at 7:15 a.m. southeast of Jezzine in Israel's "security zone."

The spokesman told reporters in South Lebanon that the ambushers killed or wounded 18 militiamen but suffered no casualties themselves.

Freij and Shawwa willing to attend peace talks as part of joint delegation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Two West Bank and Gaza leaders said Friday they would be willing to consider participating in an international conference on Middle East peace as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

The two, Elias Freij, the mayor of Bethlehem, and Rashad Al Shawwa, the deposed mayor of Gaza, said in interviews they would look positively at such an invitation.

Mr. Freij said Palestinian delegates would need the blessing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). But Mr. Shawwa, who has been critical of the PLO's new hard line, left unclear the degree to which participation would need PLO approval.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and other members of his Labour Party have named the two as Palestinians with whom Israel would be willing to negotiate.

Israel has refused to negotiate with the PLO.

Mr. Shawwa, 78, said in a telephone interview that if asked to participate in a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation "I would consider it."

"And if I thought it was in the interest of the Palestinian cause I would look at it positively," added Mr. Shawwa, who was deposed twice by Israel as mayor of Gaza in 1973 and 1982.

Mr. Shawwa sharply attacked the PLO for adopting headline policies at a recent meeting in Algiers, saying the majority of the 1.4 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip favoured a moderate approach but were afraid to speak out.

Both Mr. Freij and Mr. Shawwa said they supported a recent statement by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

Mr. Rifai conditioned PLO participation at such a conference on renouncing terror and accepting U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

Both Mr. Freij and Mr. Shawwa indicated they would be prepared to consider participation in an international conference whether or not the PLO agrees to the conditions.

But Mr. Freij ruled out participation without PLO approval. "I believe no Palestinian would accept an invitation unless he is authorised by the PLO,"

Only Mr. Shawwa left unclear if PLO approval was necessary to participate in a joint delegation with Jordan.

"I myself give top priority to ending Israeli occupation. At the moment the only means I see is 242," said Mr. Shawwa.

Mr. Peres said Thursday he would call for the breakup of Israel's coalition government if it does not approve his proposal for

an international peace conference.

But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir reiterated his unequivocal opposition to the idea.

The escalating rhetoric from the two rival leaders four days before a scheduled showdown in their inner cabinet appeared to support predictions that the 31-month old coalition government was on the verge of collapse.

"If there is no agreement, there is no agreement," Mr. Peres said when asked what he would do if he failed to convince Mr. Shamir's rightist Likud bloc to go along with his plan in Monday's meeting.

"I will go to Mr. Shamir and say: This government is divided into two parts, let us turn to the nation for a choice," Mr. Peres said on Israel Television.

A key assistant to Mr. Shamir will visit the United States from Sunday, his office said Friday.

But aides disputed a radio report that the director general of Mr. Shamir's office, Yosef Ben Aharon, was being sent to seek U.S. support for the prime minister's rejection of a peace conference and pre-empt Mr. Peres, who is due in Washington next Wednesday.

Foreign ministry officials said Mr. Peres' U.S. trip was now in doubt because of the political situation in Israel.

Hart quits race for presidency

DENVER (Agencies) — A defiant Gary Hart abandoned the race for the Democratic presidential nomination on Friday, declaring "I refuse to submit myself, my family and my friends" to continued public scrutiny.

"I'm not a beaten man; I'm an angry and defiant man," Mr. Hart told a news conference in Denver.

Mr. Hart disappointed supporters at the news conference, who cheered briefly when the former Senator said, "Hell, no," after he described a decision to make a quick announcement and quietly leave the scene.

Palestinian found killed in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The body of a Palestinian man whose throat had been cut was found in a neighbourhood of Arab Jerusalem on Friday, Israeli police said.

Police said they were investigating the identity of the dead man, who was in his 20s.

The discovery of the body came amid continuing Arab protests against the Israeli occupation.

The Israeli army clamped curfews on two occupied West Bank towns on Thursday after Palestinians hurled firebombs at Israeli vehicles.

In the Kasba neighbourhood of Nablus, Palestinians threw stones at an army vehicle and then hurled a firebomb at soldiers who were chasing them, police said.

They said the army placed the area under curfew immediately after the petrol bomb attack, which caused no damage or injuries.

The army also clamped a curfew on the West Bank town of Qalqilya after a petrol bomb was thrown at an Israeli vehicle.

A few hours later, Palestinians hurled three firebombs at an Israeli car in the village of Azoun, eight kilometres east of Qalqilya. There were no injuries or damage in either incident.

On Thursday, an Israeli minister visited Qalqilya's mayor, sharing a meal with him at his home after Jewish settlers rampaged through the Palestinian town for the second time in a month.

But the settlers vowed to step up night patrols in Qalqilya.

Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein of the left-wing Shinui Party visited the home of Mayor Abdul Rahman Abu Snaia on Thursday in what he said was an act of protest against the activities of the settlers.

conciliation between the PLO leadership and Mr. Assad's government.

He said Mr. Wazir would be accompanied to Damascus by Yasser Abd Rabbo, representing the Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), and Abu Ali Mustafa of the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

The PLO chairman praised the outcome of a meeting earlier between PFLP leader George Habash and Mr. Assad.

The talks resulted in "positive encouraging points" towards correcting and reforming relations between Syria and the PLO, Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Arafat's moves toward Syria began when Syrian-backed Palestinian factions agreed to reunify ranks with Fatah under the PLO umbrella at the Algiers meeting of the Palestine National Council.

Al Khaleef reported from Damascus earlier this week that Mr. Assad's condition for closing the rift with Mr. Arafat was that another PLO reunification process be launched in Syria.

Dr. Habash on Thursday criticised Mr. Arafat for offering to meet Israeli leaders.

"Arafat has specialised in making concessions for free, and embarrassing the masses of our

practice several times, especially when Israel shipped Iran spare parts for airplanes.

Israeli officials have admitted to selling tyres and other spare parts for Iran's U.S.-based fighter jet fleet but insists this was done with U.S. consent.

Ariel Sharon, a former defence minister, has said Israel stopped all such transactions with Iran at the request of the United States after 1982, but the former director of the Israeli defence minister, Menachem Meron, says spare parts sales were going on as late as 1984.

According to various news reports Israel continued to ship light weapons and spare parts to Iran through third countries such as Portugal and Spain and via private arms dealers.

Gen. Secord noted that Israeli

Jordan and Egypt agree to further strengthen cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee has concluded its meetings in Amman and signed minutes of the three-day deliberations which produced agreement to speed up cooperation between the two countries in all fields. The minutes said that Jordan and Egypt would each pay its share of the capital of a \$50 million joint holding company by August 1 and called for a July meeting of the company to deal with the creation of four firms for fisheries, fodder and lean meat, agricultural seeds and a tourism investment company.

The holding company, to be based in Amman, is a major outcome of efforts for economic cooperation by the two countries

since they normalised ties in 1984. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who led Jordan's team, to the meetings, and Dr. Atef Sedki, who led the Egyptian team, signed the minutes for their respective countries.

Following are excerpts of the minutes carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on Thursday:

Economy and trade

The committee decided to proceed with plans for the establishment of four companies on tourism, fisheries, agricultural seeds and fodder and said both sides would name their representatives in these companies.

The committee said the Jorda-

nian side promised to issue licences for important Egyptian products within a given quota and urge the private sector to increase its imports of Egyptian goods.

It said that trade centres in both countries should not import products from either country in amounts exceeding the figures agreed on in previous trade protocols. In this respect Jordan has said that it would import 5,000 tonnes of Egyptian aluminium, 20,000 tonnes of rice, and 5,000 tonnes of cotton. Egypt has asked to be supplied with 3,000 tonnes of Jordanian aluminium flour.

The two sides decided to take speedy steps for organising trade fairs for Egypt and Jordan in both

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Egypt remains a party to peace talks on account of Gaza — Sedki

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Egyptian government has said that Cairo still retained its "administrative responsibility" over the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and that Egypt would participate in the negotiations aimed at ending the Israeli occupation of the 40-kilometre strip.

Speaking to Jordanian journalists on Wednesday night, Egyptian Premier Atef Sedki and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmat Abdul Meguid said Egypt would be invited to take part in the proposed conference on account of its responsibility towards Gaza.

This was perhaps the first public reference by Cairo of its interest in the future of the occupied territory since the Camp

David peace talks between Egypt and Israel.

Despite its separate treaty with Israel, "Egypt was and still is a party" to Mideast peace negotiations, Dr. Sedki stressed. "If the conference is going to discuss the West Bank and Gaza, Egypt would have to participate."

Dr. Abdul Meguid confirmed that Cairo had "an administrative responsibility over Gaza," and that it was "a continuing responsibility."

Dr. Sedki said "I cannot imagine Egypt not invited to the conference."

The Egyptian premier said his talks with Jordanian leaders which came in the context of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee included discussions of the latest developments in efforts towards convening an international peace conference

on the Middle East.

"We are still trying to find a way to reconcile our concept with developments in the area," Dr. Sedki said.

Citing what he described as "developments in positions of certain parties," Dr. Abdul Meguid said direct negotiations "are no more a main precondition" for convening a conference. He was apparently referring to the U.S.-backed Israeli condition.

The Egyptian foreign minister explained that Cairo was in favour of "direct negotiations within an international conference."

Commenting on Israel's coalition government's handling of its current crisis over the proposed conference, Dr. Sedki said:

(Continued on page 3)

Arafat to send Wazir to Syria for fence-mending talks

SHARIAH (AP) — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said Friday his top military aide, who was ordered out of Damascus four years ago, would go to Syria within a week for reconciliation talks with President Hafez Al Assad, a newspaper reported.

Khalil Al Wazir, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deputy military commander, left Damascus in June 1983 after he and Mr. Arafat were declared persona non grata by Syrian authorities. Syria then supported a mutiny within the PLO against Mr. Arafat's leadership.

In an interview with the Sharjah-based daily newspaper Al Khaleef, Mr. Arafat also predicted that an international conference for peace in the Middle East would be preceded by a long-delayed Arab summit conference.

"The PLO will take part in the peace conference if the Arab (states) are able to unify their stands on the conference," said Mr. Arafat who is visiting the United Arab Emirates.

The delay in holding the summit has been mainly attributed to differences between the PLO and Syria, which hindered several previous attempts to hold the summit.

Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying he based his prediction about the international peace conference on signs of possible

Saudis said offering oil to Syria in return for better ties with Iraq

KUWAIT (AP) — Saudi Arabia has offered to supply Syria with 50,000 barrels of oil a day if Iran cuts off its supplies because of reported efforts by Damascus to reconcile with Iraq, the Al Qabas daily reported Friday.

The newspaper repeated an earlier report that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq met recently near the H-4 area on the Jordanian-Iraqi border.

There has been no independent confirmation of the reported meeting. Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib has dismissed the reports as "press rumours."

The front-page Al Qabas report said the Saudi offer was made by Crown Prince Abdullah during the purported April 26 meeting.

Prince Abdullah heads an Arab League committee that has been trying for two years to reconcile Syria and Iraq.

Al Qabas said that during the meetings, Mr. Assad spoke about "the shock he felt as a result of the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war" and repeated that his country has worked to prevent the expansion of the hostilities to other Gulf Arab states.

Al Qabas quoted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as saying that he would be satisfied if Syria assumed a neutral stand in the Gulf war.

"Iraq's sufferings so far make it unprepared to discuss anything other than the cessation of hostilities," the Iraqi president was quoted as telling Mr. Assad.

Iran's conditions for ending the Gulf war has been the overthrow of the government of President Hussein.

Three days after the meeting was supposed to have taken place, Syrian Oil Minister Ghazi Al Droubi signed during a visit to Tehran and agreement under which Syria would receive one million tonnes of free Iranian oil.

Al Qabas said Thursday the Iraqi and Syrian presidents agreed to a six-point programme to improve relations between their countries.

The daily said the agreement included a halt to media campaigns against each other, a meeting between their prime ministers or nominated officials, talks between their interior ministers as well as oil ministers and an exchange of political prisoners.

The paper, quoting informed sources in Arab capitals, said the two presidents also agreed to meet again at a proposed Arab summit in Riyadh later this year.

Talks between oil ministers would cover the possibility of Syria reopening a pipeline across its territory to the Mediterranean, which was closed to Iraqi exports five years ago after Syria sided with Iran in the Gulf war.

on his testimony.

And Senator Howell Heflin said enough questions were raised during Thursday's six-hour session about possible violations of U.S. law in the sale of U.S. weapons to Iran and diversion of payments to the Nicaraguan rebels to haul Gen. Secord into court.

"I don't think there's any question that his testimony today (Thursday) will cause his indictment," said Gen. Heflin, an opposition Democrat and a former Alabama state supreme court justice.

Former National Security Council aide Oliver L. North made a surprise appearance in federal court Friday, while Gen. Secord told the Iran-contra hearings he wants funds left from the affair donated to the Contras.

Secord faces possible charges; hearings continue

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Retired Major-General Richard V. Secord told the Iran-contra hearings Friday that Israel and several European countries had sold arms to Iran long before the U.S. arms-for-hostages deal in 1985.

Gen. Secord told congressional investigators that while in government he knew of "very large-scale transactions from European countries and from Israel to Iran — shipsloads, many, many shipsloads of armaments have been going to Iran." Gen. Secord did not name the European countries.

Gen. Secord, who served as assistant deputy secretary of defence, singled out Israel as having sold Iran weapons supplied to it by the United States. He said the United States had protested this

interests in supplying Iran differed from those of the United States because the Israelis sought to prop up the Iranians in their war against Iraq.

Secord may face charges

Gen. Secord could be indicted for what he has told Congress about the Iran-contra arms deals, according to a member of the Senate investigating panel.

Other panel members said they thought Gen. Secord had handled himself well during testimony before the Senate and House of Representatives committees looking into the clandestine scheme.

Unlike some key figures in the Iran-contra affair, Gen. Secord has not been granted limited immunity from prosecution based

U.S. 'ready to back' U.N. arms embargo against Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is prepared in principle to back a U.N. arms embargo against Iran, U.S. officials have said.

Publicly, the State Department said it was ready to back "appropriate enforcement measures" against Iran or Iraq if either refused to cooperate with U.N. Security Council efforts to end their nearly seven-year war.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters that this meant an arms embargo against Iran, which department spokesman Charles Redman Thursday again called the "recalcitrant party in the war."

"The United States is ready in principle to support the application of appropriate enforcement measures against either party which refuses to cooperate with formal Security Council efforts to

end the war," Mr. Redman told reporters.

He declined to elaborate, but the officials said such measures would be confined to an arms embargo and exclude economic sanctions.

Mr. Redman did say that Washington would work actively with other governments to expand the scope of Washington's own efforts to deny arms to Iran.

He was speaking after Secretary of State George Shultz met an Arab League delegation which is here to urge Washington to back Security Council moves to end the Iran-Iraq war.

The officials said moves to impose an arms embargo against

Iran was the prime topic in the short meeting, and that both sides agreed it should be pursued.

Mr. Shultz, welcoming the delegation led by North Yemeni Foreign Minister Abd Al Karim Al Iryani, said Washington's own "operation staunch" to deny arms to Iran would continue until Tehran agreed to talks.

"We must continue our efforts, which have been going on for many years, to do everything we can to deny arms to Iran, since it is the arms that they use to pursue the war," he said.

"Our efforts to do this is an intense one and it will continue while we also press in every way we can the international community to try to exert great efforts to bring about negotiations."

"We will not relent in this effort," he said.

Iran has so far refused to join talks and has demanded huge reparations and the ouster of Iraqi government as its main conditions for ending the war.

"We believe the world at large, and the Security Council in particular, should spare no efforts to achieve a comprehensive resolution to this conflict," Mr. Iryani said.

His delegation was here to draw attention to a resolution passed unanimously for the first time by Arab League foreign ministers in Tunis last month blaming Iran for prolonging the war.

League delegations were to visit the other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — Britain, China, France and the Soviet Union — to urge concerted international action.

Muslim Brotherhood denies attack on ex-Egyptian aide

CAIRO (AP) — The Muslim Brotherhood on Thursday condemned an armed attack on a former interior minister two days ago, but objected to speculation that it could have been carried out by Muslim extremists.

A spokesman for the Brotherhood, a moderate religious group politically banned but represented in parliament under the banner of the opposition Labour Party, issued its statement to

news agencies by telephone.

It was apparently referring to newspaper reports that stressed the gunman's beard and long robe, typically worn by Muslim fundamentalists, and to a report that a Muslim group claimed responsibility for the attempt.

"The Brotherhood is asking the press to await the outcome of the investigation, and not to pin all incidents on the Muslim groups."

Hostage crisis frozen until after U.S., French elections

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's leading Shi'ite Muslim cleric said in an interview published Friday he does not expect movement in the issue of foreign captives held in Lebanon until after the U.S. and French presidential elections in 1988.

Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah told the new Lebanese daily newspaper Ash-Shams, or the sun, that the issue of hostages has been "frozen."

"The kidnappers have an interest in this freezing until the American and French elections in 1988," said Fadlallah, the spiritual guide of Hezbollah, or Party of God.

Hezbollah, a pro-Iranian faction, is said to be an umbrella for the radical hostage-holders, although it repeatedly has denied.

Fadlallah's remarks were buried in an inside page of the conservative newspaper's first issue. The tabloid became Beirut's 13th daily publication.

There has been no word from the captors of foreign hostages for 36 days. Before then, the hostage-holders were steadily releasing communiques and videotaped messages from the captives.

The last message was April 2 by the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine. The group then claimed that one of its four hostages, American Professor Alann Steen, was dying.

The silence has been coupled with a gradual tightening of a Syrian army ring around the predominantly Shi'ite slums of south Beirut, where most of the foreign hostages are believed held.

Syria deployed an estimated 7,500 soldiers in mainly Muslim west Beirut on Feb. 22 to end militia anarchy. But their peacekeeping mandate so far has excluded the southern suburbs.

In all, 24 foreigners are missing and believed kidnapped by several radical factions in Lebanon. They are eight Americans, six Frenchmen, two Britons, two West Germans, one Italian, one Irishman, one South Korean, an Indian and two unidentified foreigners who were seen being grabbed in January.

The abductions began shortly after Muslim militiamen wrested control of west Beirut from the Lebanese army in February 1984.

Also missing is Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite. He disappeared on Jan. 20.

Japanese seamen boycott northern Gulf after attack

TOKYO (R) — Japanese seamen announced Friday they would refuse to sail into the northern Gulf until their safety could be assured following a shell and rocket attack on a Japanese-flag supertanker there.

A spokesman for the Japan Shipowners' Labour Relations Agency said the decision was reached at a meeting between the agency, which is in charge of monitoring safety, and the All Japan Seamen's Union.

He said the decision followed a statement Friday by Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari to Japan's parliament that Iran and Iraq had not responded to a ministry request that the two nations assure the safety of Japanese ships in the area.

Mr. Kuranari said the ministry had expressed concern over Tuesday's attack to the warring countries and asked them to investigate. "We have not received a response," he said.

The agency official told Reuters: "We will ask the Japanese government to seek and assure our safety in the northern Gulf and will not sail there until concrete measures are taken."

Shipping sources said the Shu-

ho Maru was attacked on two occasions on Tuesday morning 45 kilometres west of Iran's Al Farsiya island.

It was sailing to Khafji in the neutral zone south of Kuwait after loading 140,000 tonnes of oil, but was not scheduled to load or unload cargoes for Kuwait.

None of the 27 seamen aboard were hurt, although the ship suffered considerable damage and barely escaped being set ablaze.

The sources said Iranian Revolutionary Guards operated attack craft from the island.

They added that two Japanese flag ships that were scheduled to stop at Mina Al Ahmadi in Kuwait within a few days were now anchoring off Ras Tanura in Saudi Arabia.

The sources said Japanese seamen would not sail north of Al Farsiya island because the attack on the Shuho Maru was made during the morning when the ship's Japanese flag was visible, indicating that the attack was deliberate.

The Shuho Maru was the second Japanese ship to be attacked during the six-and-half-year Gulf war.

Head of Lebanese team at talks with Israel dies

BEIRUT (AP) — Antoine Fattal, an ambassador who represented Lebanon at U.S.-sponsored, post-invasion negotiations with Israel in 1983, has died of a heart attack. It was officially announced Friday.

Mr. Fattal, 69, died Thursday, 10 days before the fourth anniversary of the ill-fated Lebanese-Israeli accord on the withdrawal of Israeli troops that invaded Lebanon in June 1982.

Mr. Fattal, who had a doctorate in law, is survived by a wife and three sons.

Negotiating the May 17, 1983, accord, which President Amin Gemayel abrogated a year later under pressure from Syria, was Mr. Fattal's last official assignment.

Before then, he served for five years as ambassador to the Vatican.

U.S. holds Palestinian without bail

NEW YORK (Agencies) — An alleged gunman for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) wanted in Israel for killing a bus driver and wounding three others in a 1986 attack was ordered held without bail Friday pending a formal extradition request from Israel.

Mahmoud Atta, 33, was arraigned in U.S. federal court here on a provisional arrest warrant that charged him with murder, attempted murder, and causing injury with grievous intent.

Atta, identified on his passport as Mahmoud El Abed Ahmad, was arrested at Kennedy Airport by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents who accompanied him on a trip from Caracas, Venezuela, after he was deported on immigration charges.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Gleeson told the court there was sufficient legal basis to hold Atta for 60 days under the extradition agreement between Israel and the U.S.

Atta emigrated to Puerto Rico where he became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1982.

In the West Bank attack, on April 12, 1986, Atta and an accomplice are said to have fired a rocket from a bus in Latrun, 32 kilometres from Jerusalem.

Atta then opened fire on the bus and its passengers with an automatic weapon and killed the driver and wounded three passengers, according to court papers.

"According to the accomplice, the attack had been carefully planned in advance and they intended to kill and injure civilians," the court papers claimed.

James Bradford, Atta's court-appointed lawyer, said his client was "contesting the identity" — he is not the individual wanted in this attack.

The attack occurred on the second anniversary of another bus hijacking in the Gaza Strip that ended when Israeli soldiers stormed the vehicle, killing two terrorists and then executing two others who surrendered.

That incident sparked a public outcry in Israel and an internal inquiry determined that guards bludgeoned the two gunmen to death after they surrendered.

The judge ordered Atta detained pending a June 8 hearing. Meanwhile an Israeli government official said Friday Israel will ask the United States to extradite Atta.

If the request is granted, the suspect would be the second Palestinian to be extradited to Israel from the United States.

The Israeli justice ministry "is preparing a formal request which will be forwarded (to the Americans) within 60 days," said the government official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He said no further details were available.

In 1980, the United States extradited a Palestinian, Ziyad Abu Ain, to Israel. He was sentenced to life in prison for a bomb attack in the northern city of Tiberias in which two people were killed.

Carter: Syria will talk with Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — In a newspaper interview published Friday, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said Syria was ready to hold direct talks with Israel within the framework of an international peace conference.

Interviewed by the daily Yedioth Achronot from Atlanta, Mr. Carter said Syrian President Hafez Assad told him this at a meeting in Damascus two months ago. Mr. Carter visited five Middle East countries, including Israel and Syria, in March.

The former president said Mr. Assad told him he was ready to join a peace conference and knew that during such a forum "it would be necessary to clear up many questions in direct talks with Israel."

Syria, a close Soviet ally, is among Israel's most formidable and hardline Arab foes, and until now has staunchly opposed conciliatory moves toward the Jewish state.

But Mr. Carter said that after nine hours of talks with Mr. Assad, he came away with the impression the Syrian leader had grown "much more flexible about the possibilities for a peace conference."

He said Syria was also willing to give Jordan "a leading role among the Arabs in preparing the conference."

Egypt and Jordan are negotiating the convening of an international conference which would include the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, Israel, the Arab countries and a Palestinian delegation.

Israeli leaders are split over the proposal.

Mr. Carter said efforts to expand the peace process would not succeed unless "Israeli and Arab leaders demonstrate the courage shown by (late Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat and (former Israeli Premier Menachem) Begin eight years ago."

Helped by the mediation efforts of Mr. Carter, then president, the two leaders signed the 1979 peace treaty, Israel's only peace agreement with an Arab country.

Gen. Secord said the money was intended to pay for shipping Hawk surface-to-air missiles to Iran in November 1985. Only \$200,000 was used for the first Israeli shipment of 18 missiles.

Gen. Secord said he learned of the idea of using the left-over Israeli money for the contract from then-national security aide Oliver North.

Gen. Secord quoted Col. North as saying he had "discussed it with the Israelis, but not as to the destination of the funds" and the Israelis said "we can use (the money) for whatever purpose we wanted."

"So Mr. Schwimmer made a contribution," Gen. Secord said, drawing laughter.

Gen. Secord referred to Schwimmer, Nimrod and Kinche as "a group of civilians who didn't have any expertise in defence" and had made a mistake "which caused great embarrassment" for the United States.

Schwimmer was not in Israel. His associate, Nimrod, told the AP he could not comment "until the end of the hearings." A man who answered the phone at Kinche's home said he was not there.

According to Gen. Secord, Schwimmer, then a special advisor to former Prime Minister Shimon Peres, deposited \$1 million in 1985 in a Swiss bank account registered to Lake Resources Inc.

The account was controlled by Gen. Secord and his Iranian-born business partner Albert Hakim.

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Convicted American spy Jonathan Jay Pollard said he feigned regret over spying for Israel to win a lighter sentence for his wife, a newspaper reported Friday.

His attorneys advised him to "show remorse (if his wife) Anne were to stand any chance at all of receiving probation," Pollard wrote in a letter in March and published by the Jerusalem Post newspaper Friday.

"Accordingly, I agreed to say things which burned my soul with shame hoping that by such contrived regret the court's apparent need for a moral victory over my convictions would be satisfied," wrote Pollard, an American Jew.

The letter was addressed to Dr. Julian Ungar-Sargon of Brookline, Mass., who began writing to Pollard in prison several months ago.

The newspaper, which has published previous Pollard letters, did not say how it obtained the one to Ungar-Sargon.

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Pollard 'faked regret' to help his wife

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Pollard, 32, worked as a civilian navy analyst and was sentenced in March to life in prison for selling hundreds of secret American documents to Israel. His wife was sentenced to five years for helping him.

Pollard sharply criticised American Jews for failing to support him because he said they feared U.S. public opinion.

Pollard had harsh words for Israeli leaders, and said he had been "thrown to the wolves."

Pollard was arrested in Washington in November 1985 after the Israeli embassy in Washington refused to grant him asylum.

Pollard reiterated allegations that top Israeli leaders knew about his activities. He wrote he was "personally directed from the prime minister's office."

Israeli leaders have denied knowledge of his activities and said he was handled by a renegade spy ring operating out of the Defence Ministry. The ring has since been dismantled.

Pollard also wrote that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin should "take a long, hard look at the virtue of executive responsibility and draw the proper conclusions."

The Pollard affair is being investigated by two panels — a two-member committee appointed by the government and a parliamentary subcommittee headed by prominent Labour Party legislator Abba Eban.

In a related development, the Jerusalem Post published a poll which said 77 per cent of all Israelis disapproved of the way their government handled the Pollard affair.

Pollster Hanoth Smith said it was the highest disapproval rate he has ever measured on a foreign policy issue. The poll was conducted between April 1 and April 19 among 1,200 people. The margin of error is plus-minus 3 per cent.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

14:00	Korvan
14:10	Programme Review
14:20	Local contest
14:50	Local puzzle
15:30	Cooking programme
15:30	Arabic stories
16:00	Arabic play
17:50	Historical series
18:00	Religious programme
18:10	Arabic play
18:50	Religious programme
19:25	Ramadan competition
20:30	News in Arabic
20:30	Message from Iraq
20:40	Arabic series
21:30	Religious series
22:20	Arabic series
22:30	Arabic play
23:00	News in Hebrew
23:10	An interview with a star
24:00	Religious programme

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00	des train pas comme les Auteurs
19:00	News in French
19:15	La force du destin
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Science World
20:00	News in Arabic
20:10	Doi's Army
21:00	Siron and Simon
21:45	News in English
22:00	Eurovision Song Contest 1987
23:00	Castro: The Man Who Knew Too Much
01:00	The winning song

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 KHz. FM
& party on 950 KHz. SW
Tel: 77411-19

07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsweek
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:30	Morning Show Cont'd.
11:00	25 Years of Rock
12:00	News Summary
12:30	The Deceivers
13:00	Pop Session
13:30	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session cont'd.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:15	Jordan Weekly
15:00	Coolest Hour
16:00	News Summary
17:00	Special Feature
17:30	Musical
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Top Twenty
19:00	Newsweek

19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Rock Profile
20:30	Men from the Ministry
21:00	30-minute Theatre
22:00	Country Music
23:00	From the Poms
24:00	Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1327 KHz

07:00	Newsweek 07:30 Here's Humph
07:45	Reflections 07:50 Financial News
08:00	World News 08:00 24 Hours
08:30	News Summary 08:30 Society Today
09:00	The World Today 09:00 24 Hours
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VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1200 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740,
11925 and 15210 Hz

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Jordan, U.S. sign accord on family health series

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation Thursday signed a five-year agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to develop a health communications programme for child survival.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Ibrahim Al Mufri, director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and Mr. Lewis Reade, USAID director in Jordan.

USAID has committed \$50,000 to support this joint venture, including technical assistance from the Academy for Educational Development in Washington, D.C. The project's main objective is to promote good family health by producing local programmes for T.V. and radio on the topics of family

health. Such topics may cover dehydration/diarrhoeal disease prevention, breastfeeding and family planning, respiratory diseases, child safety and problems of sanitation. Also, people will be trained as health educators to carry out the programme.

Although USAID is financing HealthCom projects in 17 countries, Jordan is the first Arab country to participate in the programme. Locally, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation will contribute \$90,000 for personnel and other costs. Dr. Sima Bahouth has been designated as project director.

This programme will encourage cooperation among a number of private voluntary organisations as well as governmental agencies. Special emphasis will be placed on coordination with the Ministry of Health, which has given its support to the project.



Mr. Helmut Kutin, president of SOS Children's Village Association, presents emblem and key to the village to Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor (Petra photo)

King and Queen inaugurate home for orphaned, abandoned children

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — No sadness or bitterness could be found in the eyes of the orphaned and abandoned children as they sang and danced at the official opening of the first SOS Children's Village in Jordan.

Inaugurating the village Thursday were Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor; the Queen is the honorary chairman of the SOS Children's Villages Association in Jordan. Several senior Jordanian officials and president of the Austria-based SOS Children's Village, Helmut Kutin, also attended the opening ceremonies during which short speeches were delivered by Mr. Jafar Tukan, board president of the SOS Children's Villages Association of Jordan, Mrs. In'am Al Mufri, director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and Mr. Kutin. Later, Mr. Kutin presented Their Majesties with an emblem and key of the village and commemorative stamps.

After the presentation, His Majesty King Hussein addressed journalists saying that the development of the youth is vital for the development of the country. "This village is a landmark, and I am very grateful for those who have worked to make this dream a reality," he said.

The King said that children are the future and it is a duty to "prepare them to meet the challenges of life that await them," in order to live a happier and more stable life.

The SOS village which houses orphaned and abandoned children, ages one to 11 in a family oriented atmosphere, is one of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation projects for child development.

Queen Noor first contacted then Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky about establishing a village in Jordan in 1982. The following year, an agreement between Jordan and SOS Kinderdorf International to start a SOS Children's Village in Jordan was signed.

All Krayim Construction Company started work in Sept. 1984, and a month later Queen Noor laid the cornerstone of the village in the presence of Herman Gmeiner, the founder of SOS

Children's Villages. Professor Gmeiner died last year in his home country of Austria, where he established the first SOS Children's Village 36 years ago.

The village was completed in Feb. 1986; it received the first children in May the same year. The official inauguration held on Thursday made the Amman SOS Children's Village number 14 in the Arab World and number 250 worldwide.

Designed by Jafar Tukan and Partners, the village provides a healthy and warm atmosphere for the 43 children presently living at the village. It can accommodate a maximum of 90 children.

Nine family houses have been built on 33 dunums of land located near the town of Tareq; the land was provided by the Jordanian Armed Forces. Each home is an independent unit with its own garden. Each one storey house consists of three bedrooms, each with three beds, one master bedroom, a large bathroom with double sinks, showers and toilets, a spacious red and white kitchen, a living and dining room, and small storage and laundry rooms.

Colourful curtains decorate wide windows. Simple and sturdy furniture caters to the needs of the children. A balcony overlooks one of the playgrounds or greenery.

One of the seven "mothers" — women provide care for the children — Shamera lives with six children. She told the Jordan Times that she considers these children as her own. "I used to be mother and I have so much love and kindness to give these children," said Shamera. Shamera divorced and no longer has custody of her children.

She fulfills the qualifications of "mother," since she is single and between the ages of 30 and 40. "I am much happier now. I have full freedom in my home; all the mothers are like sisters. Most importantly, the children accept us as their mothers," said Shamera who has been living at the village for three months.

All the mothers receive a salary of JD 100 per month and a food allowance of JD 15 for each child. Every ten days, the mother has a day off, if she wants it, during which one of the four "aunts"

takes care of the children. Other employees include the village director, mother supervisor, secretary, accountant, maintenance man, driver and gardener. The staff members are all local except for the baker, who is a German.

The village includes a bakery, kindergarten, supermarket, an administration building and a director house. The bakery serves not only the SOS village and surrounding community, but hotels and supermarkets in Amman as well. It provides an income for the SOS village with plans to give training for the children in the future.

At present the children either attend the government school in the municipality or, if they are between the ages of 3 to 6, attend the village's kindergarten. Mrs. Amal Saydi, vice president of the board of the SOS Children's Villages Association of Jordan, said that there are plans to build a primary and secondary school in the near future.

The children expressed satisfaction with their new surroundings. All are referred by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development. They qualify to live at the village if they are without parents, if their mother has a mental or physical handicap, or if they have been abandoned by both parents. The child can live at the village until the age of 18.

Ten-year-old Nisrin said that she feels that her adopted mother is her real mother. "We help our mother with the younger children, in cleaning the house," she said.

"I am very happy here. I go to school, play with my friends, and I am even given a daily allowance which I buy biscuits with," said 11-year-old Muhaba.

"The children have come to homes not to walls," said Mr. Kutin. That is the most important thing.

The project was financed by private donations, primarily through the Herman Gmeiner German Fund, the German Children's Villages Association. The village is further supported through donations and contributions from the Jordanian community.

Low voter registration prompts ministry to open centres on Friday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Voter registration centres for parliamentary elections remained open throughout the country on Friday to enable the largest number of people to register.

The measure was taken by the Ministry of Interior because most citizens have not been able yet to register. This is due to the centres being open only during office hours in week-days and closed in the afternoons.

Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin made a tour of these offices on Thursday and urged citizens to register their names for the elections because the registration process ends on May 17.

At a public meeting in Sahab, south of Amman, Mr. Amin said that voting is the right of every citizen, and vital for citizens to influence the making of laws in Jordan.

Each citizen over 19 years of age has the right to register for elections, and can register at the nearest centre to home or work, Mr. Amin said.

He said that Sahab town and its neighbouring district has 17 centres for people to register for elections.

During the visit to Sahab, Mr. Amin also spoke about the general social and economic development in the area and said his visit was designed to generate discussion about public services with the local people. The government, he said, is keen to encourage popular participation in local government.

The governor also spoke about the five-year development plan and the responsibilities of special committees implementing the plan.

District Governor of Sahab Mohammad Abu Shuwiehmeh made a speech in which he outlined the requests of the local population.

Later, Mr. Amin toured the voter registration centres in Sahab and was told that 700 people had registered in the first three days.

Later, Mr. Amin and senior local officials visited the Sahab Industrial City and were briefed by Dr. Ali Suheimat, director of the Industrial Estates Corporation, about incentives to be offered to companies to encourage opening their business in the new city.

RJ head urges regional carriers for Third World

AMMAN (J.T.) — Third World nations should consider joining with neighbouring states to form regional carriers that would have greater resources and larger markets than fledgling carriers created for nationalistic reasons, Royal Jordanian (RJ) Chairman Al Ghandour said this week.

Mr. Ghandour, speaking to the International Aviation Club in Washington, D.C., praised the worldwide movement toward airline privatisation and U.S. airline deregulation as models for others to emulate. He noted that some protections must remain for carriers on thinner markets that are less price-elastic, such as those serving developing nations.

"The Third World," Mr. Ghandour said, "must be made to recognize the benefits of regionalisation." Similar efforts in the past, such as Scandinavia and the U.S., have paid off well, he said.

Carriers in Third World countries often are "crippled before they start to walk" by undercapitalisation, poorly defined objectives, inadequately trained staff, and an ambiguous relationship with their governments. Deregulation in some cases exceeds the carriers' capabilities.

Carriers in developing nations often find themselves without the cash flow to modernise their fleets, placing them at a competitive disadvantage, Mr. Ghandour said. Governments may force the carrier to serve unprofitable routes for political reasons, worsening their financial problem. IATA has helped with some of the difficulties by creating in 1980 a task force for these airlines, concentrating on staff training, he said.

Airline privatisation is a "positive sign," Mr. Ghandour said, noting that it can widen airlines' financial base, "free them from bureaucratic practices," improve staff morale through equity ownership, and "set profitability as the index of success."

Airlines with fewer ties to their governments, Mr. Ghandour said,

will find it easier to enter into combinations with other carriers that benefit both parties, either through mergers or joint ventures, such as the recent agreement on technical cooperation and work sharing between Malaysian Airline System and Thai International.

He said consolidation of the U.S. industry is virtually complete, with the "political mood" in Washington, D.C. likely to prevent further concentration. He predicted that within 18 months, a U.S. carrier will attempt to buy a foreign airline and that the European industry will be consolidated into five major airlines.

Some airlines and countries, however, are fighting the movements toward liberalisation and privatisation, continuing "to tread along old weary ways on a path fraught with danger," he said.

Mr. Ghandour said some European carriers in particular have resisted and resisted changes in the worldwide aviation regime. "They were happy with the 'safety net' provided by the old regime, particularly to the weak and inefficient airlines, but the tide toward liberalisation could not be stemmed," he said. "Trustbusters" within the European Community, encountering opposition from airlines that saw several U.S. carriers go bankrupt, are pressing for "the best near-deregulation that is politically possible," that is 25% of routes between two countries protected for their airlines and 75% open to competition.

Mr. Ghandour said he hoped that developing nations would place the economic importance of a strong air transportation system above nationalistic concerns for having their own airline.

While generalisations are difficult, Third World nations typically are producers of materials subject to changes in world prices. In many nations, armed conflicts are diverting attention from economic growth, he said.

Jordan and Egypt to boost cooperation

(Continued from page 1)

countries during 1987 with either country selling goods worth \$2 million in the other through such fairs. They also decided to make further studies for facilitating the entry of agricultural products into either country.

Industry

The committee decided to set up a technical committee at the highest possible level to launch coordination and industrial integration between Egypt and Jordan. This should be preceded by a general industrial survey in each country and defining unified industrial specifications.

The two sides decided to hold a meeting for a special technical committee in the coming month in Cairo to speed up measures for launching joint industrial ventures.

Planning

The committee decided to implement an executive programme for promoting cooperation between Egypt and Jordan in the process of carrying out their respective five-year national development plans.

In this process the two countries will exchange visits by specialists in planning, will exchange information and expertise and will supply each other with the complete version of the five-year plans that are being implemented in the two countries.

Agriculture

The committee noted with satisfaction the progress made in

bilateral cooperation in agriculture and decided to increase technical cooperation in agricultural statistics, marketing, grading and packing produce and in combating pests affecting agricultural crops. They also decided to organise training courses in the two countries during 1987 to raise the skill of agricultural technicians and agronomists. They decided to speed up work on finalising a feasibility study for setting up a company that will produce agricultural seeds.

Mining, oil and electricity

The committee said that the Egyptian side would dispatch a team of engineers to obtain training at the Al Hussein Thermal Power Station of Jordan and another team to discuss equipment required for setting up a Jordanian laboratory for testing electrical appliances.

The two sides will exchange studies and expertise in energy and solar energy and in producing energy from wind and will pursue plans for linking the national grids of Egypt and Jordan. They will also study the prospect of manufacturing electrical appliances in the two countries.

Services

The committee said it noted with satisfaction the progressive increase in the volume of traffic along the Aqaba-Nweibeh sea land route, especially in the first three months of 1987 which witnessed an increase in vehicle traffic rather than passengers. The committee said a joint Jordanian-Egyptian transport committee should convene soon to make a

general assessment of the operations along this route and to introduce other facilities to promote transport.

The committee called on representatives of Jordan, Iraq and Egypt to meet to study practical steps to be taken for establishing an Arab navigational company grouping the three countries.

The committee also decided to call a joint team representing the civil aviation authorities of Egypt and Jordan to meet and finalise agreement on considering flights between the two countries as internal flights so as to offer further exemptions for Egyptian and Jordanian nationals. The Egyptian side said that it would speed up the process of transferring frozen deposits owned by the Royal Jordanian airline to Jordan but it said that a Jordanian-proposed shorter line linking Amman with Cairo would not be feasible for Egypt.

Culture and education

The committee recommended that the Egyptian side define the number of seats for Jordanian students at Egyptian universities before the end of July 1987, and that both sides launch cooperation in computer education at Jordanian and Egyptian schools. It also recommended that the acceptance of Jordanian students at Egyptian universities should be done through the Jordanian Ministry of Education.

Telecommunications

The committee noted with satisfaction the steps taken in linking the two countries' telephone networks.

Egypt remains a party to talks

(Continued from page 1)

"Israel is still divided within itself; there are two currents; one supporting the conference headed by (Foreign Minister Shimon) Peres; and the opposite current which considers the idea a surrender."

Dr. Abdul Meguid told journalists that Egypt was still "waiting for the final Israeli position." He said Egypt had to wait and see whether the Israeli cabinet would accept or reject the conference; whether the coalition government would continue to exist or not and whether there would be general elections in Israel. "All these are elements beyond our control," he said.

On Egypt's relations with the PLO in the wake of the Algiers Palestine National Council meeting and the Egyptian decision to close PLO offices in Cairo, the Egyptian premier referred the

Arafat to send Wazir to Syria

(Continued from page 1)

people," said Dr. Habash. Mr. Arafat said recently he was willing to meet with "any" Israeli leader to discuss forming a binational Arab-Jewish state in Palestine.

Asked about his meeting with the Syrian leader, Dr. Habash said: "I am very glad that President Assad considers the results achieved in Algiers a positive step. As for relations between Syria and the PLO, I understood from the president that this will depend on the practices of the PLO leadership in the next few months."

PLO's rejection of United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338 and said was tantamount to rejecting the international conference. The PNC rejected Resolution 242 on its own as the basis for peace negotiations, but supported the peace conference and the PLO's participation in the proposed conference as a separate delegation.

The PNC passed a resolution saying the PLO would "come closer to Egypt as much as Egypt gets away from the Camp David peace treaty." Dr. Sedki said this PNC resolution was "a shock" and that its implications amounted to "an insult."

Asked whether, in the event of a continued PLO rejection of 242, Egypt would approve a conference without PLO participation, Dr. Sedki said: "If the organisation was invited and it did not attend, I would dread that (situation)."

He did not elaborate on this remark

Dr. Habash said renunciation of the PLO was "incomplete and limited as long as relations between Syria and the PLO are not normalised. This is our most immediate and most urgent task."

There have been reports that Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the DFLP, is among PLO leaders who are not welcome in Damascus.

Asked about the possibility of Mr. Hawatmeh or other radicals returning to Syria, Dr. Habash was cautious, saying "I discussed that with President Assad and I am hoping that the outcome will be positive."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Mohammad conveys condolences

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Friday deputed Turki Al Khreisha, director of his office, to convey his condolences to Al Ajarmeh tribes over the death of the late Muthi Al Shahwan.

Housing Corporation distributes Irbid units

IRBID (Petra) — The Housing Corporation distributed 150 housing units in Um Qais in Irbid Governorate to beneficiaries from the governorate. The project includes two types of units, one with an area of 65 sq.m., and the other with 106 sq.m. Price of the first type is JD 7,500; the monthly instalment is JD 46.5. The price of the second type is JD 12,000; the monthly instalment is JD 74.3.

Communications minister fills in for Hamzeh

AMMAN (Petra) — A royal decree has been issued endorsing the appointment of Communication Minister Muhieddine Al Hussein as minister of health, during the absence of Dr. Zaid Hamzeh abroad. Dr. Hamzeh is in Geneva to head meetings of the World Health Assembly.

Meteorology Department to attend WMO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Meteorology Department will take part in the meetings of the World Meteorology Organisation (WMO) general assembly which will open today in Geneva. The general assembly will discuss the organisation's working plan and general budget for this year. The Meteorology Department Director General Dr. Ali Abanda will represent the department in the 19-day meetings.

Man convicted of embezzlement

AMMAN (Petra) — The military governor has endorsed the military court's verdict, convicting Samir Mohammad Hassan with embezzlement of public funds and sentencing him to six months in prison.

Salt completes work on cultural centre

SALT (Petra) — The Salt Development Corporation (SDC) announced that it has completed work on constructing a cultural centre in Salt.

The centre will open its doors for the public in 1987.

The project has been financed by the Friends of Salt Society in Kuwait at the cost of JD 1 million, according to Mr. Azzam Abu Azzam, SDC executive director.

He said that the centre will offer cultural and social services, as well as housing a museum, a multi-purpose hall, a public library, a car park, and essential services. The centre, which was constructed in traditional Islamic style, also has a handicraft centre which will offer training to local people, Mr. Azzam pointed out.

Minister to open technical training class

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education Nassereddine Al Assad will today open an Arab training course on the developing curricula in technical education at the Amman Polytechnic College. The course has been organised by the Arab Union of Technical Education in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Rai: A step on the right direction

JORDAN and Egypt Thursday signed the minutes of their joint higher committee meetings, pledging to go ahead with plans to further boost their bilateral cooperation and agreeing on holding yet another meeting in this respect in Cairo. The signing of the minutes came at the end of fruitful efforts and serious discussions by the committee which is determined to forge ahead with plans designed to increase joint endeavours in the fields of agriculture, trade, industry, transport, manpower, tourism, health and telecommunications. The sixth committee meetings in Amman proved that Egypt and Jordan have succeeded in adding one more step towards strengthening inter-Arab relations and bolstering joint Arab action. This endeavour is aimed at serving the interests of peoples in both countries and promoting development. Indeed the results of the meeting in Amman constitute a source of pride for Jordanians and Egyptians alike because they are keen on broadening cooperation and strengthening the economy of the Arab World.

Al Dustour: Ideal integration

THE Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee has ended meetings in Amman and signed minutes that clearly point to the direction of further prosperity. The two sides in the committee are quite satisfied with the results of the meetings because they see in them another step forward towards a better future for both countries. We regard coordination between the two countries at this high level as a means of fusing economic, social and political integration among Arab states. The method for integration is ideal and should attract other Arab countries. The minutes signed Thursday reflect the determination of both sides to go ahead with plans for implementing projects and for continuing the endeavour for serving the peoples of Egypt and Jordan in every domain. The Amman meeting came amidst continuing state of disarray among Arab countries and a weakness characterising the Arab Nation, which clearly serves the purpose of the common enemy. The leaderships in Amman and Cairo have realised the need for fusing close cooperation in the face of the common dangers and as an essential step in the absence of real solidarity among the Arab countries.

Sawt Al Shaab: Towards more prosperity

THE sixth meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee ended in Amman on Thursday with the signing of minutes of deliberations and a pledge for further serious efforts towards the achievement of more prosperity for both countries. The two sides have achieved progress towards the integration of Egypt and Jordan in economic, social and political fields and have laid down sound plans for closer cooperation in agriculture, mining, energy, electricity and other fields. They decided on steps to be taken for strengthening bilateral cooperation in transport, culture, telecommunications and tourism and drew the broadlines for continuing cooperation in manpower and social affairs. The meeting in Amman has enabled the two sides to make a general reassessment of the past achievements and to decide on steps for the future. This meeting genuinely reflected the desire on both sides to go ahead with measures that can best serve the interests of the two countries.

Thursday's

Al Rai: The illusion of coexistence

THE most escalation of attacks by Zionist extremists on the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories represent a serious and dangerous development pointing to the fact that the Arabs and the Israelis cannot actually coexist in peace. This coexistence can never be achieved as long as the Israelis continue to occupy and usurp Arab land and deny the Arab population their legitimate rights. There is no doubt that the Israeli settlers, now occupying Arab land from a terrorist force set up to evict the Arab people from their homeland by force and if necessary by liquidating them completely. The recent events in Qalqilya and the wide-scale damage to property the Israelis caused in the town stand out as the best proof of this conviction. It is clear to the whole world that the Arab people under Israeli rule are continuously facing a war of genocide, waged against them by the common enemy of the Arabs, and they have nothing to repel aggression with except stones and hands and a strong will for resistance and steadfastness. It is an ugly war being waged on the Arab people who have become convinced that Israeli propaganda about the prospects of peaceful coexistence is nothing but an illusion.

Sawt Al Shaab: Violence breeds violence

THE Israeli air raids on south Lebanon and on Sidon in particular were aimed to shake the faith of the Lebanese and Palestinian residents and to force them to capitulate. The raids were also designed to blow up the strong will of resistance which confronts the Israelis and prevents them from achieving their ambitions in south Lebanon. Perhaps the Israelis want the Lebanese to abandon their drive to liberate their usurped territory in the south, and perhaps they also want the Palestinians to abandon their plans for launching resistance activity on the invading forces. But it is rather impossible for Israel to achieve its dreams through repeated military strikes on the south. It will not be easy to destroy the wall of resistance, and therefore Israel should realise that violence can only beget violence and more resistance. If the Israelis pursue these methods in dealing with the people of south Lebanon, they will end up facing the same outcome and the results they faced after their 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

Dengism: China's second revolution

THE People's Republic of China's (PRC) declaration of itself as part of the Third World emanates from its desire to emphasise its strict adherence to the Bandung principles, particularly the principle of peaceful coexistence between nations of different socio-political systems. In his speech at the Jordan World Affairs Council in Amman, China's ambassador, Mr. Zhang Zhen, repeatedly stressed this theme which, he says, forms the framework within which China's dealings with the outside world are based. It is against this background, the ambassador emphasised, that China supports the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, and a peaceful, but honourable and just resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Denying that China has supplied Iran with arms, or that it will exchange diplomatic relations with Israel until the latter concludes an honourable peace with the Arabs, the ambassador indicated that only non-official Israelis have visited China participating in conferences or on non-official missions.

Particularly since the death of Mao Tse Tung in 1976, China has pursued an active foreign policy whose major hallmark has been greater flexibility and pragmatism than ever before. With the assumption of Deng Xiaoping to power in 1978, the theme of peaceful coexistence has been expanded to include the internal political and economic scenes as well. The external flexibility portrayed itself in China's conclusion of the treaties with Britain in 1984, and Portugal in 1987, regulating the terms under which the territories of Hong Kong and Macao will be returned to China in 1997 and 1999 respectively. China has also been constantly trying to get Taiwan to commence negotiations that may lead to uniting the two Chinas. It succeeded in concluding the agreements over Hong Kong and Macao under the principles of "one state two systems": a

principle with which it hopes also to lure the Taiwan government to negotiations. It should be pointed out here that both Peking and Taipei insist there is only one China, each claiming to be its sole legitimate representative.

This external flexibility on the part of Peking has demonstrated itself in its improved relations not only with the United States and the West in general, but with the Soviet Union as well. Improved relations with the United States commenced with the 1972 visit of then President Richard Nixon which resulted not only in an ideological détente but improved trade and cultural relations as well. In 1985, China's trade with the United States totalled \$7.7 billion and nearly 17,000 Chinese students and scholars were studying in American colleges and universities. Chinese and Soviet envoys have been meeting with each other regularly and the level of tension between the two big powers, high since the early 1960's, has relaxed measurably.

The near-complete isolation that China imposed upon itself until the death of Mao Tse Tung in 1976 has been replaced by the 180 degree turn-about "open-door" policy of the current leader, the pragmatic Deng. Deng's "reforms" meaning changes have been termed the "second revolution" of China since the 1949 Communist Revolution. Indeed not only have they changed and continue to change China's politico-ideological and socio-economic landscape for a long time to come, but will perhaps prove to be the right approach to solving this colossal nation's problems. Only time will tell. For, such experiments as the one now under way in China cannot be judged accurately while in progress.

Deng's reforms are based on his principle, "Learn from realities." The objective realities of China today, or for that matter,

those of any other country, change as the times themselves change. They must, otherwise stagnation and backwardness will result. The spirit of Deng's thinking appeared in an article published in the December 7, 1984 issue of the People's Daily, the unexpurgated version swiftly "corrected" in the following day's edition. The article said, "Marx died 101 years ago ... we cannot expect the works of Marx and Lenin at that time to solve all the problems of today..."

Hastily, many political commentators and analysts, Western in particular, concluded that China had abandoned Marxism-Leninism, the Communist ideology. As the Chinese leaders themselves later emphasised in both deed and thought, this was not the case. What China wants is the necessary external flexibility to conduct relations with systems of different ideologies without the rigidity and the purism of earlier Marxism and the internal flexibility from the iron-clad adherence to Marxist socio-economic thought. China accepted the principle of "peaceful coexistence," externally, at the Bandung conference in 1955. It was only logical that, sooner or later, it would apply the same principle internally. Incidentally, the introduction of the profit motive into communist economy was first initiated in the Soviet Union in 1966 by the Soviet economist, Alfred Lieberman. Dengism is not a revolt against communism in as much as it is an experiment, an attempt to incorporate certain capitalist ideas like the profit motive into communist economics.

Deng hopes to release the vast energies thus far lying dormant in China's masses. It is also thus that the Maoist slogan, "Let One Hundred Flowers Bloom," has been revived. Where it will all lead, no one knows. On thing, however, is certain and that is that China was stagnating and in need of changes, these or others.

The Middle East in the year 2000

By Ali Ghandour

The following is the full text of a speech by Mr. Ali Ghandour, the chairman of the board of Royal Jordanian, delivered before the Middle East forum at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown University, Washington D.C. on April 24, 1987, under the same headline.

Thank you very much for inviting me to address an important and prestigious gathering. It is an honour and a privilege as well as an apt opportunity that I did not wish to miss to communicate with you and to reach out beyond our present confines in the pursuit of a happier and more tranquil future. The future, after all, is our common cause.

The Centre for Strategic and International Studies at Georgetown University is known for generating strategic ideas that have strategic consequences, and its capacity and ability to deal with global issues are widely recognised and acclaimed. The centre, which is a recent creation, lives up to the great traditions of a great university. "There are few earthly things," wrote John Massfield, "more splendid than a university." In these days, of broken frontiers and collapsing values — when every future looks somewhat grim, and every ancient foothold has become something of a quagmire, wherever a university stands, it stands and shines; wherever it exists, the free minds of men, urged on to full and fair inquiry, may still bring wisdom into human affairs.

"The Mideast in the Year 2000," is the theme for our discussion this afternoon. When I chose my subject, I had not realised what I was in for. First and foremost, the turn of the century is only thirteen years away and I have therefore set myself a time frame during which, God willing, we shall be around and accountable! In any event, looking into the future is a hazardous occupation and I should perhaps have headed Shakespeare's Macbeth:

"If you can look into the seeds of time and say which grain will grow and which will not, speak then to me..."

And insofar as the mideast is concerned, the exercise is formidable and forbidding. It is ever frustrating and in the light of past records one is tempted to give up the task even before it is attempted. But because we hunger for hope and hope sustains life, we cannot give up in desperation. There therefore lies the challenge to address the issues and in the process of doing so I shall inexorably find myself treading, at the expense of repetition, over all too familiar grounds. In this respect Goethe comes to my aid as he had once said, "The truth requires constant repetition because error is being preached about us all the time."

Secondly, in coming face-to-face with such a formidable audience as your good selves I should perhaps have reminded myself of three pieces of immortal advice from Winston Churchill:

"Never try to walk up a wall that's leaning towards you... Never try to kiss a person that's leaning away from you... And never speak to a group that knows more about a subject than you do."

I have, I think, acquitted myself well, particularly in my younger days, on the first two precepts, but I may be in danger of violating the third one today. I therefore ask you to bear with me. I know that I can be sure of your sympathy, but I seek a little bit of understanding too.

Does the year 2000 in itself and by itself invoke any meaning beyond bidding farewell to one century and welcoming another? Is there any magic in it more than meets the eye? To me it evinces

an element of fascination, a sense of nostalgia for an ill-forgotten past. At a time when the Arab is being portrayed in a most unseemly manner and is being denigrated in the most uncharitable terms, it is well to remember that the advent of those three zeros in the Roman calendar at the turn of the century will be a constant reminder to the young and the old of the Arabs' great sense of inventiveness and of the Arabs' eternal legacy to mathematics. This recollection is not in itself important except to remind us that in the conduct of diplomacy and commerce amongst the nations of the world it is well to maintain a sense of history as well as a sense of proportion. Gaining insight with scholarly detachment into the minds, ways and habits of one another is central to broader understanding amongst the peoples of the world. I shall therefore speak from an Arab perspective and I trust you will find my remarks helpful.

The problem of the Mideast is no ordinary problem because the Mideast is no ordinary region. Historically, the Mideast, at the juncture of world communications, was at the centre of world power rivalry long before the Palestine question became a serious issue. The discovery of oil in abundant quantities has provided the world, prior to 1975, with a cheap energy source that was central to the development and well-being of Western societies, including Japan. For vital economic and strategic considerations, the Mideast's oil reserves added to the geopolitical significance of the region. The Mideast was destined to play a role that it had not sought. The advent of Zionism and the creation of the state of Israel in Palestine in 1948 added a new dimension to the region which had already been caught up between West-West and eventually East-West rivalries.

For the purpose of our discussion, I should divide the historical background to the Middle East question into two segments: A) The allied victory in 1918 to the defeat of Germany in 1945 and B) From the surrender of the British mandate over Palestine on May 15, 1948 to the present day. I am fortunate that I am recalling, not writing history, because one is apt to be reminded of Voltaire's words that "History is a myth, written by each generation," an observation that is capable of gaining more poignancy all the time. Who would, for example, have thought that the Munich agreement could be presented in a different light from the traditional one? A British historian has recently argued that Chamberlain's "appeasement" of Hitler provided Britain with a year-long breathing space to augment the production of the Spitfires that won the Battle of Britain. Now, whether the move was accidental or contrived, Neville Chamberlain is not around and the question will probably never be answered.

Similarly, in the recent annals of the Middle East several questions have been raised but no fair or adequate answers have been forthcoming. Suffice it to say, that British duplicity was of the highest order having promised the Arabs one thing and the Jews another. The Sheriff Hussein of Mecca, King Hussein's great grandfather, was rewarded for his contribution to the allied war effort and the Arab revolt against the Ottoman empire by the British reneging on their promises to him to support the establishment of Arab nationhood and as if to

add insult to injury, together with the French redrew the map of the Middle East in a manner that satisfied their imperialist designs. And the Arabs who had renounced Islamic unity under the Ottomans for the pursuit of Arab nationhood, ended up trading one obnoxious yoke for a more heinous one. Moreover, the Sykes-Picot agreement between Britain and France which led to the aggrandisement as well as the balkanization of the Middle East laid down the cornerstone for the disintegration of the Arab Nation which led the famous Lebanese poet, Gibran Khalil Gibran who died in 1931, to prophetically lament, "Pity the nation divided into fragments, each fragment feeling itself a nation." However, the clamour for Arab nationhood remained unabated and was spear-headed by several national movements in the Levant in the early 1930's. Obviously, Arab aspirations could not see the light while the Arab countries reeled under foreign domination, but concepts took root and the momentum was kept up.

...because we hunger for hope and hope sustains life, we cannot give up in desperation.

The end of the second world war in 1945 set the stage for unprecedented and unforetold developments: The British won the war but lost their dominance, the map of Eastern Europe was redrawn in favour of the Soviets, And the U.S. emerged as a major force in international affairs. The rest of the world saw independence being granted to them, others through military struggle achieved sovereignty.

The world looked up to America for leadership. President Franklin D. Roosevelt in his speech to the Congress on January 6, 1941 enunciated his "four freedoms." There he had said that the postwar world order must be based on four essential freedoms — freedom of speech and expression, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear — "everywhere in the world." I hate to say that FDR's vision of the world contrasts sharply with our sad world of today.

In the Middle East theatre, Palestine became a dominant issue. Both Arabs and Jews, everywhere, demanded independence and the right to their own state. The British, worn out by the war and dependent on the U.S. for aid under the Marshall plan, succumbed to American pressures and abdicated their mandate over Palestine in 1948. The United Nations having voted for partition the year before, U.S. policy was not conditioned by philanthropy or pragmatism. President Truman was seeking election and had his eyes on the Jewish vote.

The Iranian revolution which is seen as the spearhead for Islamic fundamentalism will continue to resonate but will not decide the future of the Middle East. The Arab-Israeli conflict will.

The Arabs being the simpletons they were, and probably still are, had a naive view, even bordering on ignorance, of how the American political system worked and still works — the



Ali Ghandour

undue influence of special interests. The Arabs had not read history and failed to appreciate the forces they were contending with. To illustrate my point: The Herald Tribune of December 22, 1911 reported from St. Petersburg that "a sensational article was published (on December 22) in the 'contemporary review,' a semi-official organ. It points to President W.H. Taft as the initiator of the recent abrogation of the Russo-American (commerce

and navigation) treaty of 1832, asserting that his action was due to the pressure of the Jewish bankers Messrs. Kuhn, Loeb & Co. and Messrs. Guggenheim Brothers, who made it a condition for their assistance in sustaining his candidature for re-election to the presidency that he should defend the interest of their co-religionaries (whose U.S. passports were not being honoured in Russia). The Duma will use urgency in examining a new bill for raising the customs dues upon American goods 100 per cent ad valorem, with a double tax upon navigation." The language of the dispatch seems all too familiar in the conduct of contemporary foreign policy.

The surrender of the mandate and the emergence of the state of Israel, had neither addressed nor answered the Palestine question. In fact they created the Palestinian problem which today remains the root cause of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The "original sin" in the words of eminent Zionist, Dr. Nahum Goldman, was the "dispossession of the indigenous Arab inhabitants of Palestine to make way for the Jewish survivors of Hitler."

Notwithstanding the new forces at play, the Arabs went to war believing as they did that Israel's claim to Palestine, based on a tenuous divine right, would not stand up to Arab continuous historic rights. The Arabs had thought that justice would triumph over iniquity ignoring all the nuances of realpolitik. Except for His Majesty, the late King Abdullah of Jordan and the late Prime Minister of Iraq, Nuri Pasha Es-Said, there was hardly any understanding of international politics. The world, save for a few inconsequential nations, paid lip service to Arab rights and demands. In the process, the Palestine issue became increasingly more emotional and the restoration of Palestinian rights became the platform for Arab governments. The Arabs had already been divided on strategy, the Palestine issue had become more divisive within the realm of Arab politics. In the wake of Arab defeat in 1948, coup d'états took place in Syria, Egypt, Iraq and Northern Yemen, the advancement of the Arab cause in Palestine being the fiery banner. Mutual defence

President Franklin D. Roosevelt in his speech to the Congress on January 6, 1941 enunciated his "four freedoms". There he had said that the postwar world order must be based on four essential freedoms — freedom of speech and expression, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear — "everywhere in the world." I hate to say that FDR's vision of the world contrasts sharply with our sad world of today.

Soviet incursion in the area instilled in the Arabs a false sense of security as well as elusive self-confidence that they could embark on a bold course of action in order to assert their rights. In due course, the Arabs undertook a series of adventures which resulted in disaster. In the wars of 1948, 1967, and 1973, the Arabs sought a military solution to a political problem. The Suez war of 1956 was an exception in that it was an invasion which represented British-French-Israeli collusion. In the annals of U.S.-Arab relations, this war stands out because it brought out the finest elements in U.S. leadership — President Eisenhower's resoluteness to put an end to the nonsense and to order Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

As can be seen, the Arabs rejected Israel but could not challenge it. Israel took advantage of the June war of 1967 to advance

and fulfill her objectives. Israel emerged from the war as an imperial and colonialist power. The Syrian Golan Heights, it had already annexed, and the Gaza Strip and the West Bank of the Jordan are under festering Israeli occupation.

The October war of 1973, which paved the way for the Camp David accords, returned the Sinai to Egypt and led to the normalisation of Egyptian-Israeli relations, but the future of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank remained unsettled, the root cause of conflict and tension has not been dealt with as both land and people remain under occupation. The return of the Sinai, a vast expanse of desert land, has been significant in one major aspect. It set the tone and stage for diplomatic offensive which are very much in demand now.

The fulfilment of war had already been demonstrated to Arab and Israeli alike albeit for different reasons. The Arabs have tried their hand at war and failed. While military action is an open option, war is no longer realistically an instrument of policy. The Israelis, on the other hand, have achieved their targets even beyond their wildest dreams. They are perhaps as anxious as the Arabs to put an end to the present impasse, but do not seem willing to budge except on their own terms. In the Israeli view, Arab rights are negotiable, but not Israel's spoils of war. Both sides live in fear of each other; Israel's fears, however, are more imagined than real. Moreover, there seems to be no limit on Israel's conception of its own security requirements, and Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 illustrates the point. Consequently, Lebanon has been destabilised forever. Israel's strikes beyond her own borders do not seem to respect any international code of conduct or behaviour. Israel, in spite of its nuclear arsenal of 100 to 200 bombs and conventional forces of great competence and preparedness, portrays itself as being in danger of annihilation from its Arab neighbours. And sadly the wise words of one of America's greatest generals who became the first post-war Republican president, namely Dwight D. Eisenhower, are ignored and their profundity lost:

"There is no way in which a country can satisfy the craving for absolute security." Eisenhower said, "but it can bankrupt itself, morally and economically, in attempting to reach that illusory goal through arms alone. Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who are hungry and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its labourers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children."

In the world of power politics, Israel is not only perceived as primus inter pares but becomes like one. Israel is not yet ready to reason because she has been granted license by the U.S. to act the way she does. From an American perspective, Israel is viewed as a bastion of stability in the Middle East and is deemed as a Sparta to turn to for military force that is efficient and versatile to police the region. This is a misconception that does not stand up to scrutiny, and George Ball in an article entitled "What is an Ally," in the 1983 issue of American Affairs stated:

"We must make an even more fundamental effort to help our

(Continued on page 5)

The Middle East in the year 2000

(Continued from page 4)

countrymen see the Middle East through the prism of our own national interests rather than the distorted lens of Israeli ambitions. As a result of numerous factors — an inadequate knowledge of the area, the shrewd manipulation of opinion by the friends of Israel, the appeal of the Jews' tragic history — many Americans have adopted the slothful habit of viewing the Middle East in terms of Jerusalem's short-term policies rather than Washington's larger concerns. Yet the United States, with its worldwide responsibilities, caught up in a protracted struggle with another great power, cannot long afford to indulge such a habit. If it is to meet its responsibilities to itself as well as to others, it must shape and conduct a coherent Middle East policy tailored to its own objectives, rather than permitting itself to be outmanoeuvred to the point of silently accepting, and even subsidising, the negation of its true interests. To continue such a course of complaisant inaction can lead only to disaster, not only for the United States but for all Middle East nations, including Israel. Therefore, we must promptly undertake to refocus our country's attention on its national interests."

I applaud Mr. Ball's sagacity and admire his great sense of courage. He speaks out without fear or favour. And as James B. Conant, a famous educator and former president of Harvard University, said:

"Behold the turtle, he makes progress only when he sticks his neck out."

I am afraid little progress has been made because few people stick their necks out. Since Eisenhower, we have looked up to second-term presidents for hope of fair action, only to find that the second administration was more impotent than the first. Watergate and Irangate had to pop up at the wrong time to spoil our wish, fantasy or dream. And the more I come to grips with the U.S. electoral system, I lose heart. It is worthy of mention that when the Congress was debating the resumption of U.S. aid to Turkey which was cut off as a result of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, a U.S. congressman from New York was asked why he did not support the bill knowing where U.S. strategic interests lay, replied: "In my district there are more Greek restaurants than there are Turkish baths." On a more serious note, Philip Geyelin writing for the Washington Post in November, 1985 described the upmanship of senators Kasten and Inouye with respect to U.S. aid to Israel, particularly to effect a "buy-down" of the interest that Israel pays on its loans from the United States, from about 11.5 per cent to five per cent and prompted him to conclude by saying "what is going on here would appear to be yet one more example of Israel's best friends in America being more Israeli than the Israelis."

It is very unfortunate that official America fails to see U.S.-Arab relations, politically and economically, in proper perspective. Israel is smartly and neatly presented as a strategic asset whereas the like-minded pro-Western Arab countries are viewed as unreliable partners. U.S. policy is one-sided and treats Palestine, not the Palestinians, as a non-problem, ignoring the basic issue that the Palestinians' plight cannot be settled without paying due regard to land settlement. Hence, the equation of trading territory for peace. Even though the Palestinian question may not in the Arab realm occupy the same paramount position it once did, it still remains an explosive issue to be reckoned with. At the same time, sight is lost of the community of economic interests between the U.S. and the Arab World. Dr. Thomas Stauffer in a detailed and comprehensive paper that he presented to a conference in Toledo, Ohio on March 14 last year on this subject remarked:

"The Middle East market, in spite of our political posture, is still large. Currently it accounts for some \$20-plus billion of exports, and an estimated \$10 billion in services purchased from the United States. The Middle East alone, therefore, accounts for 10 to 12 per cent of our total exports-volume which in this day and age is not to be sneezed at. About 750,000 American jobs are directly at stake today in the Middle East. But the direct employment understates what is at risk because the indirect jobs are excluded. If General Motors exports a car to Saudi Arabia, for example — it is one of the few markets left for Detroit iron — there are jobs at GM. But that job at GM also creates a number of jobs elsewhere throughout the system for GM suppliers and sub-suppliers, sub-contractors and sub-sub-contractors. Thus, when all is said and done we find that something like 3 million Americans directly and consequentially

have their livelihoods tied to our present trade with the Middle East."

In contrast, Dr. Stauffer has this to say about Israel: "The U.S. economic relationship with Israel is especially costly in terms of American jobs. First of all, the fact that U.S. aid is de facto not tied to U.S. goods translates into a loss of about 300,000 per year directly and indirectly. A further cost to U.S. workers is the special privileges given Israeli exports to the United States, for which the United States does indeed pay — unlike our exports to Israel. The special preferences and broad duty-free status accorded to Israel's exports to the United States result in the loss of still another 50,000 to 100,000 jobs — an arrangement peculiar to Israel and not affecting other Middle East exports to the United States."

It is sad that while the Arabs justifiably find fault with the United States, they do not fault themselves for the present dismal state of affairs. All along they seemingly had not an effective foreign policy, and if they did it must have been a closely guarded secret! For one thing, they did not, unlike the Israelis, speak of one mind but rather, beyond rhetoric, disparate noises were heard all over the place to no avail. What compounded the problem was that the newly-emerged Arab states and endowed with oil wealth had a say in Arab affairs completely out of proportion to their size and background. This contrasts with the American Jews who in spite of their wealth and influence deferred during and after the World War II to the European Zionists for leadership and direction in all matters pertaining to Palestine. Understandably, the Arabs had no constituency to speak of in the United States, but they have not seriously attempted to reach for the minds and hearts of the American people in order to influence the direction of U.S. foreign policy in a fair and objective manner. Worse still, the Arabs had no policy at all in Israel and subsequently in the occupied territories. In other words, the Arabs could — and should — have become a factor in U.S. and Israeli politics. Great opportunities had been lost and instead of the Arabs being masters of their own destiny, the future of the area is in the final analysis being decided by a self-correcting equilibrium of interests amongst the superpowers, including Israel.

It is a paradox that the oil boom instead of playing into the hands of the Arabs has played against them. In the West and particularly in the U.S. we have been viewed as the Shylock of modern times. The portrait of the ugly Arab had become uglier and the image of the Arab seemed to vary inversely with his wealth.

In the heyday of oil it was convenient, almost fashionable, to blame the economic ills of the world, particularly the Western nations, on the Arab oil producing countries. High oil prices were incriminated as the cause factor of world-wide recession, inflation, high interest rates and high unemployment it was conveniently forgotten that the oil revenues amassed during the unprecedented era of high production and high prices had fallen not into the hands of the prodigal Arabs and consequently were recycled into the Western economies in the form of bank deposits, increased demand for goods and services, and the purchase of arms. It is absolutely staggering that arms deliveries on government-to-government basis to Third World countries exceeded \$53.7 billion in 1980. And Russia too has been no mean beneficiary. The sad thing though is that the sale of arms has become a very respectable business for the exporting countries to the extent that peddling takes place at the highest official levels.

Oil prices have recently tumbled, and the downward trend has taken on an ironic and sinister twist. Again the Arab is the villain-of-the-piece. The economic ills of Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas are blamed on falling and low oil prices and the Arabs find themselves in the unusual paradox of damned-if-you-do and damned-if-you-don't.

Oddly enough, the United States now maintains that it could live comfortably with a price of oil at \$20 per barrel, even slightly higher, which is deemed as a "support level" to encourage oil production and exploration at home. Additionally, the U.S., despite firmer prices, is said to face almost inevitable new crisis. "Over dependence on costly and insecure foreign sources of oil could well be the major national problem of the 1990s," said Charles J. Dibona, president of the American Petroleum Institute, a trade association.

I ask myself, as you would probably do too, why insecure sources? Since the flow of oil was at one time secure and abundant at \$4 a barrel, why shouldn't it be

secure and abundant at \$20? Let us remember that both suppliers and consumers have a vested interest in the stability of oil prices, bearing in mind that oscillations in commodity prices have wreaked havoc on national economies and distorted patterns of international trade.

No review of the Middle East situation can be complete without taking into consideration the Iraq-Iran war which drags on into its seventh year with no end seemingly in sight. Two things characterise the war. Firstly, this confrontation between Iran and Iraq has very little roots in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and secondly the downfall of the Shah was brought about by Muslim clerics who are intent on spreading Islamic fundamentalism beyond their shores. This wave of Islamic zeal is not without significance and presents challenges to policymakers in the West, East and particularly, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries. In this context it is well to remember that Lenin, himself, once said, "ideas are more fatal than guns."

As a result of the war, mutual mass destruction of life and property continues to take place on a gigantic scale. The conscience of man is not pricked anymore; there are so many wars and mini-wars taking place simultaneously around the globe that people have subconsciously developed built-in immunity to shock and do not react to tragedy beyond the expression of peripheral interest and sympathy. The Iraq-Iran war has become the forgotten war. Nonetheless, it behooves us to assess the long-term implications of the conflict. The economic consequences of the war are not too difficult to assess. Suffice it to say, that the war has, amongst other things, siphoned off the excess liquidity of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. But the war will leave in its wake a torrential wave of mutual hate and enmity which will take generations to forgive and to forget. One has only to look at the traditional enmity between France and Germany to realise how slow the healing process is. Will Iraq and Iran produce in due course leaders of the likes of a Charles de Gaulle and a Konrad Adenauer to perform the miracle of rapprochement?

The outcome of the Iraq-Iran war is unpredictable, and will probably end in a no-win contest. However, there is nothing to prevent us from visualising a few scenarios. In the event of an Iranian military victory, the U.S., aided and abetted by the West, will opt for the occupation of the Gulf. The Soviets, thus provoked will settle for the occupation of Iran. Russia has been in occupation of north-western Iran before and if it had not been for U.S. nuclear superiority under the Truman administration would not have withdrawn in 1946. Israel, with the hardliners in power, will probably seize on the situation and undertake adventurism in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to force peace on the Arabs on her own terms. Here we see the game of nations played all over again not without precedent in the annals of history. The superpowers, including Israel, will have achieved, at the expense of the Arabs, their strategic objectives. There is little fear of the Third World war being ignited because of the mutual fears of nuclear conflagration.

If the war ends in a negotiated settlement as it probably will, Islamic fundamentalism will not lose its appeal. In fact Islamic fundamentalism had its supporters long before the Iranian revolution because the return to Islamic precepts is seen as succeeding where nationalism has failed to unify the Arabs under one banner. Consequently, one would see Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, because of close geographic proximity and deep-seated Islamic traditions, becoming prone to the Islamic fundamentalist movement. On the other hand in the rest of the region there will be a call for unity under a national banner to assert nationalism, which is already deeply-rooted, in order to enhance a pluralistic society, stem the Islamic tide and to stand up to Israel, if not militarily, politically.

The Iranian revolution which is seen as the spearhead for Islamic fundamentalism will continue to resonate but will not decide the future of the Middle East. The Arab-Israeli conflict will. Already there are hopeful signs on the horizon. The supposedly divergent interests of interested parties in the dispute seem for once to be converging in search of a *modus vivendi* on which a strong peace can be established. Demographic change is exerting pressures all over which cannot be ignored.

In the West Bank of Jordan and under Israeli occupation, the Palestinian population has grown by 25 per cent since the June war of 1967 and continues to grow. At the same time the "successor generations" of Palestinians are far more patriotic than their elders and will not suffer the

occupation lying down. These two considerations pose problems to Israeli political strategists. Israel cannot afford to procrastinate on the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the fate of the Palestinians. Already, Israel is faced with a dilemma. Will she be "democratic" or "Jewish"? She cannot be both and Israel cannot have her cake and eat it too. Moshe Dayan had once remarked that the Jewishness of the Jewish state must be maintained at all costs. This of course presupposes accommodation of the express wishes of the Palestinian people to freedom and sovereignty. The Jews have suffered and the "successor generation" in Israel will not want to see the Arabs suffer at their own hands. The Holocaust memorials in Jerusalem as well as in Washington are constant reminders of man's brutality to man. William J. Byron, president of the Catholic University of America speaking in Taipei on June 15 last year remarked, "Should the memory of the Holocaust in Germany serve to remind us that an ever present problem is our capacity to hate, to murder, to disregard and destroy human life and dignity?" I share Mr. Byron's total concern for human rights and in our quest for solutions I draw comfort and encouragement from the words of John F. Kennedy.

"Our problems are manmade — therefore, they can be solved by man. Man's reason and spirit have often solved the seemingly unsolvable and we believe they can do it again."

Within Israel, ethnic stratification presents policy considerations. The Oriental Jews vis-a-vis the Ashkenazis have become the minority and a force to be reckoned with in Israeli elections. Abba Eban, then minister of education in Ben Gurion's government expressed fears lest Oriental Jews drag into "unnatural orientalism." I believe Israel's policy-makers have a direct interest in the Soviet's glasnost, "openness," that is taking place now in the hope that they can draw on the reservoir of Russian Jewry to offset the present demographic challenge.

At the same time, the Jonathan Pollard affair has presented a new dimension to the various forces at play. Parallel may be drawn between the Alfred Dreyfus case at the turn of the last century and the Pollard affair in that both created and spearheaded animosity and ill-feeling. The difference though is that Dreyfus was acquitted and vindicated while Pollard has been convicted and is serving a prison term.

The upshot is simple: Israel cannot take U.S. Jewry for granted. Richard Cohen writing for the Washington Post last month stated:

"Israel enjoys great love and respect in America, particularly from a Jewish community which, like a mother, has always been willing to forgive, but there are signs that it is taking America and the Jewish community for granted. The Pollard case is a nightmare-come-true for American Jews. In Mr. Pollard the Israelis created an anti-semitic stereotype: An American Jew of confused loyalties who sold out his country. Indignation and shame are felt in equal measure."

For a change, American Jews, now Jewish Americans, will increasingly become less subservient to Israeli wishes, and will view their interests in a wider U.S. and global context, and consequently U.S. foreign policy to-

wards the Middle East will reflect this change in perspective.

In the USSR too, convulsive demographic changes are taking place. As a U.S. strategist has pointed out: "These changes are shifting the balance of population to Muslim Russia and away from the shrinking population of the mother Russia where its government, industry and education are concentrated." In this light, the Soviets will not want to create conditions conducive to the rise of militant Islam and may want to pacify the region in its own interest rather than fish in troubled waters. However, in pursuit of their intelligence activities they may rest content with penetrating the uppermost sanctuary of the U.S. embassy in Moscow as they have done earlier this month!

The U.S., on the other hand, for the reasons that I have explained, and prodded along by the moderate Arabs, will want to see an end to the impasse and pacify the region in its own interests too. Saudi and Gulf oil supplies and reserves remain central to U.S. strategic imperatives in the area.

At long last, the climate seems favourable to the holding of an international conference on the Middle East. Why? Russia did not want to be excluded in the first place, and the Arab consensus seems to favour Soviet presence at such a conference in order to, in the absence of military parity with the Israelis, bolster their own posture. The Israelis, particularly the Labour Party, have finally come around because it is being realised that an international conference is the only acceptable avenue that can be explored to produce "peace in our time."

The international conference is not an end in itself but the means to achieve practical and desirable objectives. I foresee a number of mini-conferences emerging to deal with the major issues over a protracted period of time, but progress will be made because of the general will to succeed. I visualise the conference coming out in favour of the creation of a Palestinian entity in confederation with Jordan. This will satisfy Arab nationalism as it will be seen as the forerunner of a wider Arab confederation to which the Arabs have aspired. Israel's security will have been guaranteed, and Israel will have through its actions earned its place in the midst of the Arab World without forsaking her own identity.

I also envision Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon grouping under the banner of the Fertile Crescent not to challenge the realities but to come to grips with pressing social and economic issues. Iraq will, I imagine, be closely associated with the Fertile Crescent. Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries will go on peacefully along their old traditional ways, but will become more exposed to Islamic fundamentalism.

I have taken you on a trip into the past and present and in the process exacted your patience. What else could I have done? Kierkegaard had said, "Life must be lived forwards but can only be understood backwards."

Ladies and gentlemen, the future we all know is fraught with perils, but I see a new beginning. In the words of Theodore Roosevelt:

"We see across the dangers the great future, and we rejoice as a giant refreshed — the great victories are yet to be won, the greatest deeds yet to be done."

Thank you.

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — May 9, 1987

8:30 Dad's Army

9:00 Simon and Simon

10:20 Eurovision Song Contest, 1987
Live via Satellite from Belgium.11:30 Feature Film
The Man Who Knew Too Much

A child is kidnapped by spies to ensure her father's silence, but he springs into action. Splendid early Hitchcock which after a faded start moves into memorable sequences involving a dentist, an East End mission and the Albert Hall. All very stagey by today's standards, but much more fun than the expensive remake.

Sun. — May 10, 1987

8:30 Growing Pains
The Breakfast Club

Mike is grounded when he's caught lying. Maggie is also caught in a lie and agrees to be grounded with him. But will she change her mind when she learns she's missing out on a trip to Atlantic City and a Frank Sinatra concert with Jason?

9:10 Doc. — On the Wheel
The Road Ahead

10:20 Robbery Under Arms

Mon. — May 11, 1987

8:30 Ever Decreasing Circles

9:10 Moonlighting

10:20 Fair Stood The Wind
For France

H.E. Bates' famous love story

Fair Stood The Wind For France was written in 1944 and is regarded by some as "the finest novel of the war." Set in the Occupied France of 1942 it follows the fortunes of two young people — John Franklin, a badly-injured British airman stranded in France, and Francoise, the French country girl who befriends and helps him.

Tue. — May 12, 1987

8:30 You Again

9:10 Yesterday's Dreams

The conditions of Donna's garage get worse. Diana goes to Martin and takes some money from him and gives it to Donna. Martin and Diana meet once again and recollect the dreams of yesterday. Martin and Gilbert get ready to examine the new jet turbine.

10:20 The Unknown War

11:10 Bergerac

Wed. — May 13, 1987

8:30 Dialogue with Muslim Intellectuals

9:10 Doc. — In Search of
Trojan War
The Women of Troy

Michael Wood travels, as a Bronze-Age visitor might have done, to the palace of King Agamemnon at Mycenae, to the court of King Nestor at Pylos, and to Helen's Sparta, where remains of a Bronze-Age palace have recently been uncovered by excavation. The real-life drama, that may be the model for the story of Helen's abduction, is uncovered, as is the way in which

a wooden horse could possibly have brought destruction to Troy.

10:20 The Bastard

In Part II of MCA Television's four-hour, two part presentation of "The Bastard" Philip finds employment in Boston. There, he finds a band of famous revolutionaries and is hired by one of them, a printer, to turn out seditious literature. Philip courts and succeeds in overcoming the prudish independence of Anne Ware, attractive daughter of Abraham Ware, a lawyer.

Thur. — May 14, 1987

8:30 Me and My Girl

9:10 The Challenge

Rhode Island. Training begins for the contenders and defenders. Bond's "Australia II" has six boats to beat just for the right to challenge! Tensions mount as the rival crew move into their training camp in Newport. As the precious days pass and the time for the challenge series draws nearer the crews and their leaders become increasingly difficult to live with.

10:20 Feature Film
The Battle of the Panzar

A story of a German tank in France before the end of the World War II, which was rescued after having fallen in an ambush

Fri. — May 15, 1987

8:30 Bill Cosby Show

9:10 Falcon Crest

10:20 Peter The Great

Scientists working on shots against pregnancy, tooth decay

By Paul Trenthard
The Associated Press

GENEVA, Switzerland — Prevention of pregnancy and tooth decay might appear to be unlikely subjects for vaccines.

But an experimental preparation to end a pregnancy unnoticeably within days, using vaccine techniques, has passed preliminary safety trials in a small group of women.

A genetically engineered immunisation against dental caries is "on the shelf," ready for testing in humans if health authorities deem it cost-effective, the developers say.

Scientists working in the two fields outlined their progress at a recent World Health Organisation seminar on developments in immunisation.

Paul Griffin, a British scientist with WHO's human reproduction programme, said the pregnancy vaccine stemmed from demands by developing nations for more and simpler means of population control. He said it wasn't designed to replace contraceptive methods.

Developed in 10 years of research, the vaccine interacts with a specific hormone, human chorionic gonadotropin (HCG), necessary to keep the uterus in a receptive state for the implantation of the new fertilised egg or

embryo.

Griffin said the advantage of the vaccine is that it "will only be called into play when fertilisation has occurred, will be effective at a very early stage of embryonic development, and will have an effect which closely mimics a normal event."

"A woman won't know she has been pregnant, and indeed she may not have been," said Griffin. The menstrual cycle would appear normal, and there would "not be an abortion, but a non-successful implantation" in the first 14 days after conception, he said.

Griffin agreed that since the vaccine acts after fertilisation, it would be unacceptable to some religions and societies. But he noted that abortion is already a major contraception method in many developing countries.

After tests of the vaccine tested on baboons, human trials took place last year at the Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide, Australia, on a small group of women who previously had been voluntarily sterilised.

All but one developed antibodies against HCG that would have been sufficient to prevent pregnancy without side effects. The one failure was due to a technical problem, said Griffin.

A true contraceptive vaccine that would prevent conception is

still "science fiction," said Griffin, and a marketable anti-pregnancy vaccine may be 10 years away.

"It must be ultra-safe, because we are dealing with healthy people," said Griffin. The goal is an inexpensive one-shot, one-year vaccine that could be extended to three years with boosters. The vaccine would have a declining, reversible effect.

But its use will probably be wiser for those who intend to have no more children, he said, because scientists aren't sure if the antibodies that prevent a successful pregnancy will fully disappear.

Tooth decay is "the most prevalent disease in the world caused by an infectious agent," said Dr. Roy Russell of the dental science department of Britain's Royal College of Surgeons.

But because it is only life-threatening in extreme cases, and is declining rapidly in industrialised nations, it hasn't received high official priority, he said. The disease is increasing in the Third World.

The vaccine, against streptococcus mutans, believed to be the prime cause of decay, has been extensively tested in monkeys. For the past three to four years, it has been awaiting clearance for testing in humans, he said.

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Corsican rally continues despite latest fatality

BASTIA, Corsica (R) — The ill-fated tour of Corsica Motor Rally continued Friday despite the death Thursday night of a French competitor, the fourth fatality in the event in the past three years.

Jean-Michel Argenti died instantly when the Peugeot 205 GTI in which he was co-driver crashed through a mountainside wall and plunged 50 metres into a ravine.

Driver Jean Marchini was badly injured and airlifted to hospital, where his condition was described on Friday as stable.

Finnish star Henry Toivonen and his co-driver Sergio Cresto were killed in last year's race and Italian Attilio Bettig died during the 1985 event.

Earlier on Thursday, five spectators were injured when they were hit by cars spinning off the narrow Corsican roads, although

none of the injuries was serious.

The International Motor Sports Federation (FISA) changed the world championship rules this year in a move to improve safety and outlaw the most powerful group B cars.

But drivers defended on Friday the Corsican course, saying fatal crashes happened on other international circuits but were not given the same media attention.

France's Yves Loubet, leader after Thursday's first stage, told reporters the track was among the most testing for rally drivers. Thursday's crash took place at

dusk after the competitors had completed nine special stages from the southern port city of Ajaccio, over the rugged mountains of the Corsican Macquis to the industrial city of Bastia.

Argenti and Marchini were about 20 kilometres from Bastia when their car left the road on one of the hundreds of tight bends that characterise the course.

FISA officials were unavailable for comment Friday because of the national holiday in France but race officials said there were no plans to call off the rally.

In Friday's stage from Bastia to Calvi, a French foreign legion base, Frenchman Bernard Beguin regained the lead he relinquished briefly in the day before and held a 25-second advantage after the first section of the day.

U.S. military prepared to protect Seoul Olympics

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. military forces are ready to assist and cooperate with South Korea in protecting the 1988 summer Olympic games in Seoul from any North Korean terrorist attack or other provocation.

Defence Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger said.

The U.S. pledge was contained in a joint statement covering the two countries' 19th annual consultations on security which asserted that "the next several years will be a crucial period for the maintenance of peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula."

Weinberger and South Korean Defence Minister Lee Ki-Baek gave more details at a Pentagon news conference.

"It means any additional support, any additional assistance from us that might become necessary at any time to prevent any sort of act of terrorism, or brutal aggression that North Korea might employ to try to disrupt the games," Weinberger told reporters.

S. Korea charges north of disruption plans

Meanwhile South Korea has charged that North Korea will try to disrupt the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

and the South Korean government must maintain massive security to safeguard the games.

Huh Moon-Do, minister of unification, told a news conference that North Korea would use any opportunity to disrupt the games to embarrass South Korea.

Huh, who oversees the Seoul Government's policy on reuniting the divided Korean Peninsula, said North Korea would take part in the games only if it concluded it had no chance of foiling the event.

Huh charged that North Korea had waged a vicious propaganda campaign to persuade Olympic authorities to pull the games out of Seoul, portraying South Korea as a nation riddled by political strife and disease. He said the tactic had failed and North Korea was now claiming it should be made a co-host to the games.

However, North Korea charged Thursday that South Korea was trying to force the North to boycott the games.

The North's official Radio Pyongyang said the North Korean Olympic Committee issued a statement Thursday charging "South Korean authorities are doing their utmost to destroy to proposal to co-host the Olympic games."

Soviet Star to fulfil promise in French Guineas

PARIS (R) — Sheikh Mohammad of Dubai's Soviet Star is expected to fulfil the immense potential that he showed in his only other two races and take Sunday's one mile Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 2,000 Guineas) at longchamp.

The race, which is sponsored by the sheikh's brother Maktoum Al Maktoum, carries a first prize of \$218,600 and has attracted a field of 14 runners, including a four-strong British challenge headed by the European free handicap winner Noble Minstrel.

Soviet Star is a son of the highly successful Sire Nureyev who tragically broke a leg earlier in the week.

Soviet Star made his debut in a maiden event at Saint Cloud last October and ever since he strolled home in that race. There have been high hopes of him at Chantilly where he is trained by Andre Fabre.

On his seasonal re-appearance last month, despite showing signs of inexperience and pulling hard throughout, he produced a breathtaking run to win his preparatory race over this course and distance.

Noble Minstrel looks the strongest of the British-trained runners. He crowned last season by winning the Criterion de Maisons-Laffitte only to be disqualified on a technicality.

Tampa and Richmond to host 'Rocky IV'

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — The USA Amateur Boxing Federation (ABF) has announced that Tampa and Richmond, Virginia, will host the 1987 heavyweight invitational series featuring athletes from the United States

and Soviet Union.

Established in 1975 and considered a showcase for Olympic hopefuls, the heavyweight invitational includes competition in three heavier weight categories — light heavyweight (178 pounds

or 80.6 kilograms), heavyweights (201 pounds or 91 kilograms) and super heavyweight (over 201 pounds or 91 kilograms).

Richmond will host the teams June 6, and the competition moves to Tampa June 12. Members of the teams will be named later this month.

A different U.S. squad will compete in each city.

"The rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union is one of the longest standing and most highly contested in amateur sports," said Col. Don Hull, president of the ABF.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Soviet judo champion fails

PARIS (R) — Soviet world featherweight champion Yuri Sokolov, who has moved up to lightweight, was beaten by West German Steffen Stranz in an all-action match on the second day of the European Judo championship on Friday. Although he established a five-point lead with an opportunist counter halfway through the first round, Sokolov was unable to resist the constant pressure from the tall West German and was eventually penalised for passivity just seconds before the end. Stranz went on to beat Britain's European silver medalist Kerrith Brown to win a place in the semifinal on Sunday against Poland's Wieslaw Blach. On the other side of the lightweight draw, France's 1983 European champion Richard Melilo, making a comeback after injury, won his way convincingly to the semifinal by picking up the 1986 European champion, Bertalan Hajtos of Hungary, and turning him on his back for the perfect score, to the delight of the capacity French crowd.

Swimmer returns for 1st meet in 19 months

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's Olympic gold medalist Jon Sieben will swim in his first international competition for 19 months when he competes at two North American meetings next week. Sieben, who missed last year's Commonwealth games in Edinburgh because of a bad bout of glandular fever, will swim the 100 metres butterfly at the Canada Cup meeting in Vancouver and at an invitation event in Mission Bay, Florida.

Tourists lose by an innings to Kent

CANTERBURY, England (AP) — The touring Pakistan cricket team slumped to an innings defeat by Kent Friday, its first by the south-east English County. Starting the day at 25 for one and still needing another 203 to avoid an innings defeat, Pakistan crumbled to 171 all out to lose by an innings and 57 runs.

Kristiansen seeks \$110,000 prize

LONDON (R) — Norwegian Ingrid Kristiansen aims to break the two hours 20 minutes barrier and collect \$110,000 in the process in Sunday's London Marathon, which is dominated by the women's section. And she is confident the target is attainable. "I am ready for it now," she said. "I've been training a lot mentally, trying to teach myself that I am as good as some of the men and that I can do things that have never been done before." Kristiansen set the women's world best marathon time of 2:21:06 in the same event two years ago and reckons she is fitter this time.

Naples gets set to go wild

NAPLES, Italy (R) — The streets of Naples were being dressed up Friday for what promises to be the city's wildest ever party this Sunday when Napoli should clinch the Italian soccer championship.

Naples, where football is a religion and Diego Maradona a sporting saint, have never won the title in their 61-year history and hundreds of thousands of Neapolitans are convinced May 10 will be the day all their dreams come true.

Three points clear with two games remaining, Napoli are at home to Fiorentina this weekend while Internazionale Milan, the only side who can catch them, are at Atalanta.

Huge firework displays and street parties have been organised throughout the city and churches have been inundated with requests from young couples to wed, making the day a double celebration.

Several dogs, and even one horse, have been painted in the blue and white of Napoli and one area of the city has plans to parade through the streets a huge cake depicting the Bay of Naples and a smoking volcano vesuvius.

Understandably, no-one dares suggest that Napoli and Maradona could lose. "I refuse to contemplate the possibility that Napoli could not win the championship," the city's police chief Antonio Barrell told reporters.

He denied press speculation that pressure was being put on

Napoli to lose by underworld gangsters who run an illegal soccer lottery. They stand to pay out a fortune if Maradona's team take the title because at the beginning of the season the illegal bookmakers offered odds of 13-1 against the local side.

Barrell has placed 1,000 police on duty in and around the San Paolo Stadium, five times the normal number, to cope with the capacity 85,000 fans who will jam in.

Thousands more will follow the match on radio through loudspeakers set up in the narrow streets of Naples, where locals have draped house fronts and balconies with banners, flags and models of the league shield.

The final 30 minutes of the match will be shown live on television in the Naples region in the interests of security because of fears that fans will storm the ground.

City transport workers have also cancelled a strike originally scheduled for the same day to avert chaos.

Maradona, bought three years ago from Boca Juniors for a world record \$7.5 million, has said his greatest dream after taking Argentina to World Cup victory last June is to bring the Italian League shield to Napoli.

He has promised Napoli's excited fans the celebration of a lifetime in the stadium but appealed to them not to allow passion get the upper hand.

"It will be the most beautiful thing ever. I imagine myself among the people, out on the streets of Naples. But I want to say again to the people: don't invade the pitch... if you do, the celebrations will be over in a minute," he said.

French sailor claims world record in yacht race after 8 months at sea

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (AP) — French sailor Philippe Jeantot was almost nonchalant as he claimed a world record and a second victory in the solo Round-the-World BOC Challenge Yacht Race.

Awaiting the victorious Jeantot Thursday when he reached Newport after covering 27,000 miles (43,440 kilometres) in 134 days was \$15,000 in prize money, nine liters of champagne and a band playing "Alouette" on the dock. There was also a three-layer chocolate cake in honour of his 35th birthday on Friday.

"It's very nice," Jeantot said modestly of the contest that cost one man his life and indelibly altered the lives of the others.

All but one of the 10 sailors still at sea were expected to arrive during the next several days, race officials said.

The exception is John Hughes of Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Canadian awed followers of the race when he lost a mast and jury-rigged a replacement to get around Cape Horn, one of the most difficult passages in the world.

Hughes hopes to arrive by May

30, race organisers said.

Tanned and looking fresh, Jeantot said with a grin, "you need to have determination to do this and be willing to suffer."

Jeantot's reserve belied a drive for adventure he shared with his fellow competitors, a field that shrank from 25 to 16 since the sailors left Newport here last Aug. 30.

South African John Martin, the first to reach Newport but officially behind Jeantot because he spent more days at sea, is expected to be the fourth finisher overall, race officials said.

"I would never have rested in my grave until I had done it," said Martin. His time at sea was 147 days, 5 hours, 14 minutes.

He battled 50-foot (15-metre) waves and his boat capsized 2,500 miles (4,000 kilometres) off Australia. What kept him going?

"Courage," said Martin.

"You've just got to find the courage to survive."

He said he never got bored because he was just "flat out racing."

Jeantot, who completed the 1982-83 BOC race in 159 days,

crossed the finish line in Newport at 6:46 p.m. (2246 GMT) in his 59.9-foot (18-metre) yacht, "Cecit Agricole." His official time was 134 days, 5 hours, 46 minutes and 45 seconds.

Coming in second was French author and artist Thuan Lamazou aboard "Ecurie d'Aquitaine." Lamazou, 31, finished with a time of 137 days, 17 hours, 36 minutes and 6 seconds. He won \$10,000.

Other arrivals Thursday night were: American Guy Bernardin, sailing "Biscuits Lu," Australian Ian Kierman aboard "Triple M Spirit of Sydney," and South African Bertie Reed in "Stablo Boss."

The BOC challenge is staged in four legs, with stopovers in Capetown, South Africa, Sydney, Australia, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The race is sponsored by BOC group, an international British manufacturer of health care products and industrial goods.

One racer, Jacques Desours of France, was lost at sea Dec. 19 in the second leg of the race between Capetown and Sydney.

Minnesota breaks curse, defeats Baltimore in American League

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Twins apparently have broken the curse of the left-handed pitcher.

After losing to two Baltimore lefties, the Twins thwarted a third left-hander and beat the Orioles 5-2 Thursday.

"We're not looking back. We're going to the future," said twins manager Tom Kelly, whose team opens a three-game series Friday night against the New York Yankees at Yankee Stadium.

Until Thursday, the Twins had not fared well against Baltimore Southpaws. Rookie Eric Bell held Minnesota hitless until the ninth inning of a 5-4 Baltimore victory Tuesday night, and Scott McGregor hurled a three-hitter as the Orioles shut out the Twins 6-0 Wednesday night.

But Minnesota salvaged the final game of the series in a dual of losing left-handers. Twins star Frank Viola snapped a four-game personal losing streak while winless Baltimore starter Mike Flanagan fell to 0-5.

Twins' outfielder Kirby Puckett said Viola's teammates had confidence he would bounce back.

"You knew Frankie was going to be all right," Puckett said. "All he had to do is throw his game and everything would be fine."

Kelly agreed with his players' assessment of Viola.

"He's very capable of winning 20 games," Kelly said. "He's one of our main shooters and he has to contribute for us to win."

Gary Gaetti had three hits and drove in two runs for the twins,

who moved to within a half-game of first-place California in the American League West.

The Twins scored two runs in the first inning. Al Newman walked, and scored on Dan Gladden's double. Gladden then scored on a ground out by Puckett.

Baltimore cut the lead to 2-1 in the sixth inning when Cal Ripken Jr. scored on a sacrifice fly by Nelson Simmons. But Minnesota scored three runs in the seventh to take a 5-1 lead.

Newman led off with a double to left, went to third on Gladden's single and scored on a single by Puckett. After Puckett stole second, Tony Arnold relieved Flanagan. Gaetti then singled to centre, scoring Gladden and Puckett.

The Orioles scored their final run in the eighth when Ripken doubled and came home on ray knight's single.

Flanagan gave up eight hits, five runs and three walks in six innings.

Ajax ready to revive the glory years of Dutch soccer

AMSTERDAM (R) — Ajax Amsterdam will be seeking to rekindle the spirit that brought them and Dutch soccer glory in the 1970's when they meet East Germany's Lokomotive Leipzig in the European Cup Winner's Cup final in Athens next Wednesday.

Technical director Johan Cruyff, the great star who inspired both Ajax and the Netherlands in those years, has assembled an exciting young squad which includes two of the country's top scorers, Marco Van Basten and John Bosman.

Their youth and promise is tempered, however, by the experience of former Ipswich and Manchester United midfielder Arnold Muhren, who has re-

gained his international place at the age of 35.

Unfortunately, Cruyff, who played in Ajax's first European final in 1969 and then helped them win the champion's cup three years in succession from 1971 to 1973, will be without Bosman in the final.

Bosman, 22, scorer of eight of Ajax's 21 goals en route to Athens, was banned for two matches by the European Football Union (UEFA) after he was sent off in the semifinal first leg against Real Zaragoza of Spain and so misses the final on May 13.

Ajax secured a place in their first European final for 14 years with a convincing 6-2 aggregate win over the Spaniards and so sparked off contemplation by

their near-delirious fans of a revival of the golden era when Dutch domestic and national teams could seemingly do no wrong.

"A beginning of a new era?" mused the influential Dutch soccer magazine Voetbal International in a special edition devoted to the Amsterdam club.

Certainly, Ajax are through to the semifinal of the Dutch Football Association (KNVB) cup tournament they won last season and are second in the first division behind PSV Eindhoven.

But, though six Ajax players helped the Netherlands beat Hungary 2-0 in a European championship group five game last week, the team still needs some fine-tuning before they face the dogged East Germans in Greece.

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SELVRADO
Performances 3:30, 5:10, 9:00, 10:45

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625153
THE VALACHI PAPERS
Performances 3:15, 5:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **OPERA** Tel: 675573
SHANGHAI SURPRISE
Performances 2:15, 5:15, 8:45, 10:45

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420
MAFIA GANGSTERS
Performances 2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **RAGHADAN** Tel: 622198
COCONUTS
Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Friday.

One Sterling	1.6790/6800	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.3350/60	Canadian dollar
	1.7840/47	West German marks
	2.0115/25	Dutch guilders
	1.4670/80	Swiss francs
	36.9037/10	Belgian francs
	9.5550/9600	French francs
	1239/1259	Italian lira
	139.40/50	Japanese yen
	6.2300/50	Swedish crown
	6.6550/6600	Norwegian crowns
	6.6925/75	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	455.80/456.30	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equity prices in late trading continued to improve on record highs achieved earlier in the day following news of a half point cut in U.K. clearing bank base rates to nine per cent. Earlier, trading values were boosted by encouraging support for the ruling Conservative Party in Thursday's local elections.

At 1445 GMT Friday the FTSE 100 index stood at a record intra-day high of 2,136.3, up 58.4. The market now awaits news of the date of the next U.K. general election, widely expected for June 11, and faces the prospect of a further fall in base rates on continued sterling strength, dealers said.

Sterling's resilience to the recent fall in U.K. interest rates, highlighted by its reported brief advance above 3.0 marks Friday despite news of the ½ point cut in base rate, reinforces expectations of a further similar fall ahead of the expected general election date. There is some speculation that a full point cut to eight per cent may be on the cards, dealers said. Sterling closed unchanged at a trade weighted 73.6.

Privatised issues featured among the heavily traded stocks, gaining ground after an apparent weakening in the Labour Party.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a Saturday to do those things and see those persons who have proven stalwart and satisfactory in your life. Use caution in any undertakings today.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Plan your activities so that arguments will not surface. Partners could be in an irate mood, so maintain your poise.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study your appearance and see how best to improve it. Your mate may be a little testy today, so be careful.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get busy improving your home. Tonight you may find your fondest pleasures lacking in excitement.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Though the conditions at home need a bit of adjustment, invite guests in tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A business situation arises that lets you forget a different business worry, but by handling one you solve the other.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You need to study a personal matter more before you can start any action on it. Avoid a greedy friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A private affair can spoil your morning if you let it. Show consideration for your mate and try not to disturb this person.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A new contact could prove trying. Your mate may be demanding, but remain pleasant and poised.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you are conscientious in handling an outside affair you get good results. Be your independent self now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) It is wise to dig up further facts connected with an important matter, so wait before moving ahead.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Plan how to be more precise where your accounts are concerned. Show more loyalty for your mate.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Avoid long talks with an associate since this could result in an argument. You find it hard to keep promises now.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will need to learn patience. This child will want everything to proceed exactly as desired, so teach this one to be more objective and learn to cope with life's vicissitudes. A profession allowing the expression of this humanitarian is the best choice.

Egyptian reforms start to bite

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's economic reforms, launched this month to secure International Monetary Fund (IMF) help and debt rescheduling by Western governments, are starting to bite.

Barring last-minute snags, the IMF executive board on May 15 will approve an accord giving the most populous Arab state \$300 million in standby credit over the next year, diplomats said.

In return, Egypt has raised prices of some fuels, is preparing to liberalise its multi-tier exchange rate system over 18 months by letting commercial banks fix a market rate, and is curbing bank lending in an attempt to cut 25 per cent inflation.

The credit squeeze — an order pegging the growth in banks' loans this year to 2.5 per cent of last year's total — has already forced some banks to call in overdrafts and refuse customers.

"It's biting," one banker said. "Some banks had already passed the ceiling and are turning business down."

The business community is now waiting for details of Prime Minister Atef Sedki's exchange rate reforms before assessing long-term prospects. The IMF has set tight performance conditions and will be monitoring the economy closely, bankers and diplomats say.

But one immediate objective — rescheduling of Cairo's \$38.6 billion foreign debt — is on course.

With an IMF deal serving as a stamp of approval, Western creditor governments are due to discuss terms during meetings May 18-22 of the informal Paris Club, diplomats said.

Negotiations with individual creditor governments, likely to produce revised repayment periods of 10 to 15 years with five to seven years grace, could take six to nine months.

The World Bank is expected to disburse loans for industrial and agricultural projects of \$200 million in 1987/88 starting July —

with more later — following Cairo's reform commitments.

Egypt has strong Western political backing for its efforts to handle intractable economic problems, compounded since last year by hard currency shortfalls at a time of heavy foreign debt payments.

Its strategic location and key role in Middle East peace efforts as the only Arab country to have normal ties with Israel make it a special case, diplomats said.

A key part of the IMF package is the planned move towards unification of the country's complex exchange rate system for the national currency, the pound.

Under new rules to be announced soon, a committee of eight banks will fix daily dollar/pound rates to compete with technically illegal but tolerated free market brokers, government officials said.

Egypt will continue to have several different rates, though the aim is to cut down to one market rate by mid-1988.

The main ones are the government book-keeping rate of 0.70 pounds to the dollar, the daily-fixed central bank incentive rate of about 1.35, and the free market rate, currently around 2.15. In addition, a separate rate is used for trade and payments with the Soviet Union.

Bankers expect the bank committee to set rates close to the free market — perhaps 1.80 to 1.90, maybe as high as 2.10. But they expect brokers to continue operating and say the free market is unlikely to disappear if there is a gap between the bank's rate and the market.

"People will continue to use the channel that gives them the best rate," one said. "They will deal on the free market unless the banks are competitive."

The new rate will apply to remittances by Egyptian expatriates — \$2.5 billion in 1985/86 — exchanges by tourists and financing for 40 per cent of imports. Other import finance will be at the incentive rate and items will

be shifted to the new rate gradually as the IMF programme progresses.

Among tough performance conditions set by the IMF, it will look closely at price rises demand supply and the budget deficit — 5.6 billion pounds this year.

An IMF policy review mission is due in Cairo next September and Egypt can expect three yearly inspections.

Some bankers and diplomats regard the IMF's expectations, in full detail still secret, as unrealistic because of structural economic and social problems in Egypt.

They say Cairo may be unwilling to impose austerity measures on the poor, the bulk of Egypt's 50 million population, through price rises which could spark unrest as bread price increases did a decade ago.

"Sooner or later the government will have to raise prices for consumers and this could spell trouble," one diplomat said.

President Hosni Mubarak has pledged to protect the poorest and Mr. Sedki has said state subsidies of some \$2 billion a year on basic commodities will stay.

If Egypt fails to meet performance criteria, the IMF can waive its requirements, a political decision, or suspend the programme.

The government plans to raise electricity prices for consumers of over 500 kilowatts a month to soak the rich and spare the poor.

From May 1, it trebled prices of fuel oil and raised prices of gas oil, diesel and kerosene over 50 per cent. But petrol stayed the same and prices are well below world levels.

The credit squeeze has had one success as banks call in loans to speculators who had borrowed pounds to buy dollars at inflated rates.

While the squeeze could also damage private business, this week's rise of up to two percentage points on loans is expected to have little impact since rates of as much as 18 per cent are still considered low, bankers said.

Indonesia raises interest rates

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's central bank Thursday announced it was raising interest rates to stop money from leaving the country and attract funds back from abroad.

The measure will raise already high borrowing rates at a time when Indonesia is trying to encourage industry to export more to make up for a fall in oil revenues.

But a Bank Indonesia spokesman told reporters the increase, which raises its discount rate from 18.5 to 20 per cent, is necessary to maintain growth in domestic bank deposits. The discount rate is the interest charged on funds provided to commercial banks.

Indonesia has been worried about money leaving the country, attracted by the higher interest rates, accounting for inflation, that are being offered abroad. Indonesian inflation is running at around nine per cent a year and the country devalued the rupiah by 31 per cent in September.

The spokesman said the move was partially prompted by the

latest rise in the U.S. prime rate, at which banks lend to their most favoured corporate borrowers.

Indonesia's currency is freely convertible, but money has been leaving the country for Singapore and other financial centres on fears that the government could impose exchange controls. Another spur to the exodus has been a narrowing in the differential between rupiah interest rates and those in other currencies, particularly the dollar, observers said.

A bank statement said its 30-day deposit rate on Bank Indonesia certificates was increased retroactively to 16 per cent from Wednesday, against 14 per cent last week, and for 90 day certificates to 17 per cent from 15 per cent the week before.

Bankers said the move would raise deposit and lending rates at state and commercial banks.

Deposit rates Thursday were quoted at between 14 and 16 per cent, while commercial bank lending rates were between 17

and 24 per cent.

The government has not given figures for the outflow of money from the country, but the growth in domestic bank deposits has fallen sharply.

The spokesman said bank deposits were only likely to grow by eight per cent in 1987 without a rise in interest rates, against 16 per cent in 1986 and 30 per cent in 1985.

Meanwhile, Dr. J.B. Sumarlin, state minister for national development planning declared that Indonesia will accept only limited and soft-term foreign loans which do not affect its balance of payments position.

He said commercial loans which came at high interest rates aggravated the nation's balance of payments situation.

Indonesia would consider as "soft" only those loans whose repayment period was 18 years or longer, and where the interest rate was no more than 3.5 per cent and the grace period exceeded seven years.

Mideast oil state reportedly wants new pricing formula

HOUSTON (Agencies) — At least one Middle East oil producer, losing revenues because of the decline of the U.S. dollar, has approached customers about switching to a pricing structure based on a basket of currencies instead of solely on the dollar, an oil refinery chairman said Thursday.

The dollar has declined sharply in the past two years, giving up well over 40 per cent of its value against the West German mark and the Japanese yen. The decline has curtailed the buying power of oil producers in non-U.S. currencies.

Mr. Oscar Wyatt, chairman of Coastal Corp., which refines oil and produces energy, said he believed the producer's move was meant to test the market's tolerance for a shift away from pricing oil in dollars.

He declined to identify the oil producer, other than to say it was a Middle Eastern nation.

"I told them we could not negotiate on that basis," Mr. Wyatt told reporters after Coastal's annual shareholders meeting.

Such a switch in OPEC pricing, if it happened, would mean higher gasoline and oil prices in the United States, an oil industry executive said.

Several analysts and top oil company executives believe OPEC, which meets next month, is facing financial pressure to either raise its \$18 a barrel benchmark price or adopt a basket of currencies for pricing purposes.

"If the dollar continues to decline, they (OPEC) will either raise the price or turn to a basket of currencies which would contribute even more to the (U.S.) trade deficit," Mr. Wyatt said. "We've got a serious currency problem and a serious trade problem in this country," he said.

Proposals to the crude oil prices to a basket of currencies are not new and have tended to come along with declines in the value of the dollar. However, debate on what currencies are to be included in the basket and how they are to be weighted has complicated discussions and the dollar's eventual recovery has usually led oil producers to shelve such discussions.

But industry sources said that there are technical committees in OPEC which are constantly assessing the impact of foreign exchange rates on earnings from oil.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah, said in remarks published in Kuwait Wednesday that he expected OPEC to discuss the possibility of raising prices in June. But he described the impact of the dollar's fall as slight, adding: "There is no need to worry."

Mr. Wyatt estimated the United States could eventually face an annual trade deficit of up to \$10 billion from imports of foreign oil, which accounts for more than a third of U.S. oil supply. "It's a very scary thing," Mr. Wyatt said, referring to the stirring of interest among OPEC

ing pumping more than its agreed total. On Tuesday, the main grade of U.S. crude oil broke the \$19 mark.

The energy agency said in its monthly oil market that the rise in OPEC production in April was due to large increases in output by Saudi Arabia, the group's largest producer, and by warring Iran and Iraq.

It also said the Soviet Union, which is not an OPEC member, had significantly increased its oil exports to Western nations in April, while routine maintenance work in North Sea caused a modest dropoff in Western output.

Saudi Arabia's production was estimated to have jumped to its quota of 4.1 million barrels a day from 3.0 million in March.

The energy agency's report said this could be explained partly by a narrowing of the gap between open-market oil prices and official Saudi selling prices, which has made Saudi crude more attractive to oil companies.

The report said Iran's output in April rose to its quota level of 2.2 million barrels daily from two million a day in March.

Iraq managed a similar increase, to 1.8 million barrels daily, due to resumed operation of an Iraqi pipeline through Turkey that was closed for one week in March by a landslide and to increased use of a pipeline through Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea port of Yanbu.

Iraq's production quota is 1.46 million barrels a day, although it has vowed to ignore the limit until OPEC agrees to give it parity with Iran.

The other major violator cited was the United Arab Emirates (UAE) whose production was reported at 1.2 million barrels daily, compared with its quota of 902,000.

UAE Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba warned in remarks published Thursday that if OPEC did not increase the UAE's current quota of 902,000 barrels per day (b/d), "we will feel free to do whatever is in the best interests of the UAE."

The UAE demand for a higher quota could trigger a barrage of similar requests from other OPEC producers and upset a delicate quota balance worked out last December, traders say.

It could also sharpen debate between those who favour price hikes and those who want higher output.

U.S. consumer debt shrinks

WASHINGTON (R) — American consumers kept their credit cards in their pockets during March as the total of outstanding consumer debt shrank for the first time in more than four and a half years, the government reported Thursday.

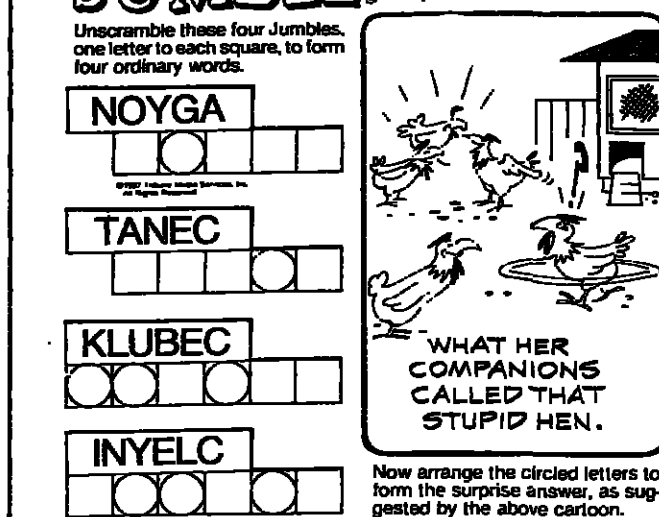
The Federal Reserve Board, the U.S. central bank, said consumers paid off a seasonally adjusted total of \$63 billion of debts in March, compared with \$1 billion of additional debt incurred in February.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"You worm! I found the Valentine you sent to the refrigerator!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



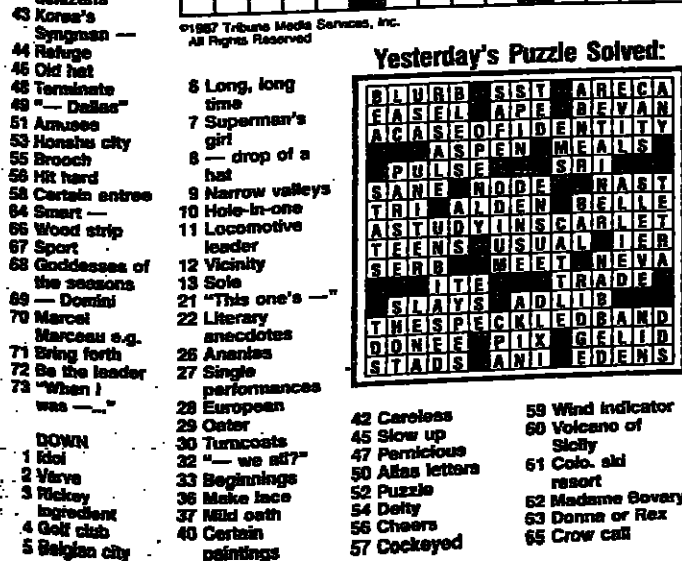
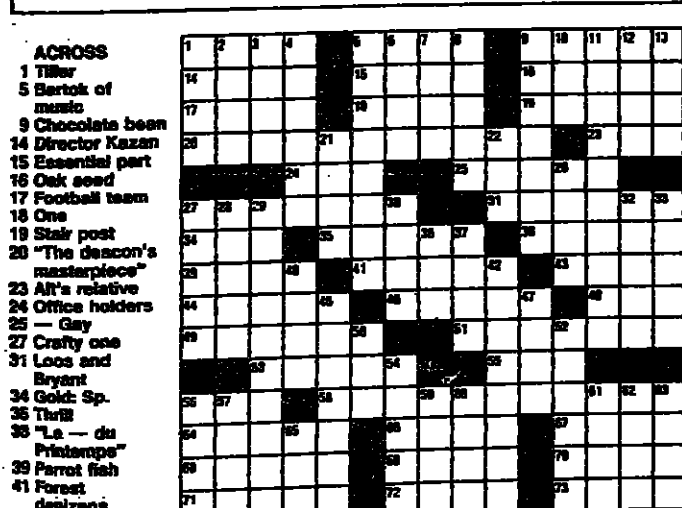
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A _____

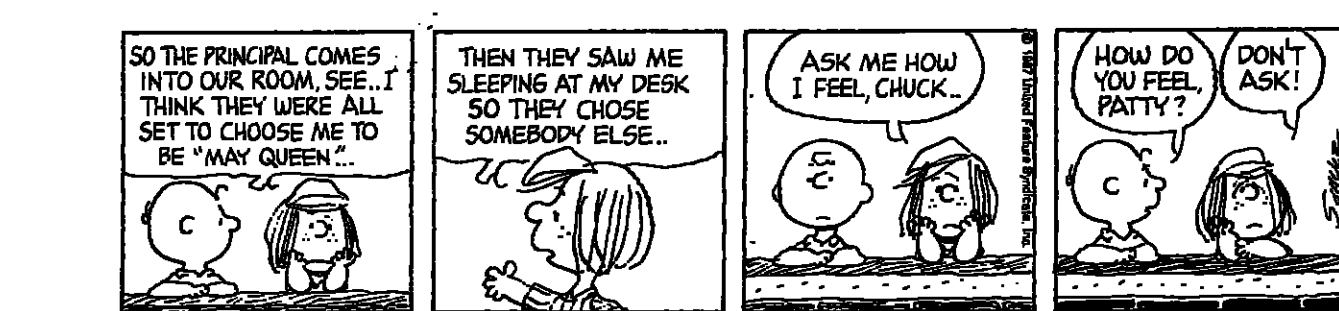
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GROUP ADMIT YEOMAN SUCKLE
Answer: A tiresome person always takes his time doing this — TAKING YOURS

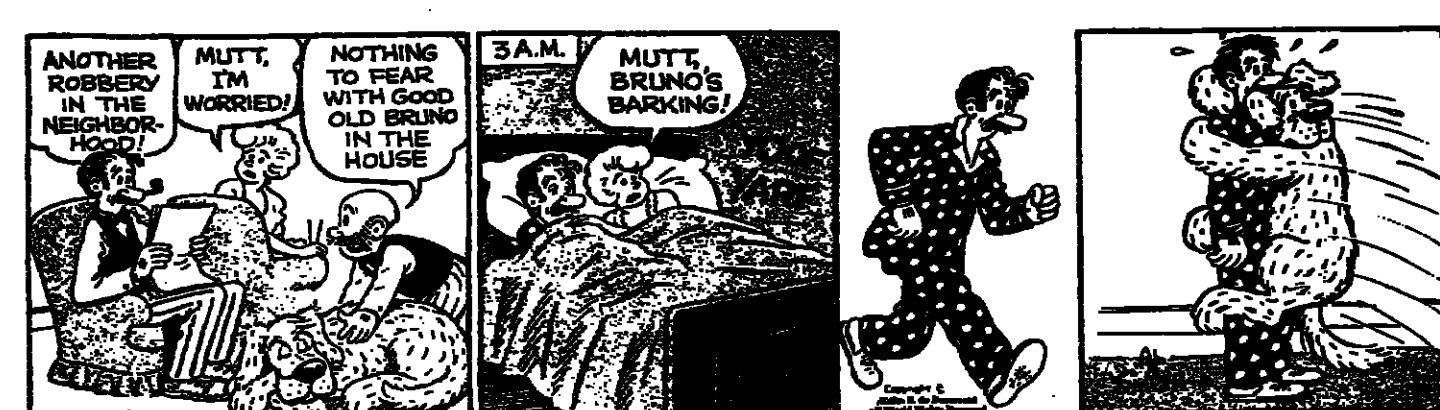
THE Daily Crossword by C.F. Murray



Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Botha wins landslide victory in South African elections

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (Agencies) — Business leaders Friday urged the government to take advantage of its election victory to make rapid reforms of apartheid.

The National Party government of President P.W. Botha indicated the process could be a slow one.

"It may be expected that there will be purposeful progress along that (reform) course in the months and years ahead," the state-run South African Broadcasting Corp. said in a radio editorial.

When Mr. Botha called Wednesday's election for the white, and dominant chamber of parliament two years early, he said he was seeking a mandate to negotiate with representatives of the voteless black majority.

Parliament also has chambers representing people of Asian descent and those of mixed race.

Under apartheid, the country's 24 million blacks have no vote in national affairs. By law and by custom, the 5 million whites control the economy and maintain separate districts, schools and health services.

Mr. Botha said in a television interview Thursday night that the Nationalists, who increased their parliamentary majority, had received "a clear mandate from the electorate to pursue security for the country and its people as a primary objective."

He said the government would also pursue reform that would be "constitutional and gradual."

"To us this is obviously bad news," said an editorial in the Sowetan, a Johannesburg newspaper for black readers. "We blacks will suffer the brunt of radical right-wing policies being thrust down the government's throat."

The Sowetan had conducted its own newspaper poll, in which readers, no matter what their race, could vote for the president of their choice. Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress military wing when he was imprisoned in 1982 for sabotage and conspiracy against white rule, collected the most votes in the poll, which was published Thursday. Mandela is serving a life term.

Since it is illegal to quote Mandela except for statements he made during his trial, the paper published a statement Friday from his wife, Winnie.

She quoted from his defence statement: "I feel oppressed by the atmosphere of white domination that lurks all around this courtroom. It reminds me that I am voteless because there is a parliament in this country that is white-controlled."

Mrs. Mandela said, "those words, uttered 25 years ago, could have been uttered on election day in 1987 when the white minority went to the polls... The same court atmosphere he found oppressive 25 years ago could have been written about any detainee today."

The Five Freedoms Forum, a coalition of civil rights and anti-apartheid groups, responded Friday to Mr. Botha's post-election promise to crack down on non-parliamentary opposition, particularly groups that receive foreign funds.

"We challenge the state president's statement that change will come through a parliamentary that has received a mandate for war from its electorate," the Five Freedoms Forum said.

"Extra-parliamentary organisations are seeking non-violent solutions for South Africa. Whites committed to peace and common future for all South Africans are not the real threat."

Black leaders greeted the result with dismay. Nobel Peace Prize-winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a prominent black campaigner against apartheid, said: "I believe we have entered the dark ages in the history of our country."

Asked about the future, Zulu leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi told a radio interviewer: "I can only see blood."

The swing to the right had given credibility to those who saw bloodshed as the only answer to South Africa's racial crisis, Buthelezi said.

Soviets accuse U.S. of raising radiation levels

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Foreign Ministry has accused the United States of increasing atmospheric radiation outside its territory with nuclear tests that the Kremlin claims violate a 1963 treaty.

Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov issued the accusation during a news briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists Thursday.

Asked whether the alleged increase in radioactive isotopes exceeded internationally accepted health standards, Mr. Gerasimov said he had no details.

The ministry statement appeared to be another step in the Kremlin's effort to convince the United States it should agree to a superpower ban on nuclear tests.

"Competent Soviet bodies have thoroughly checked the results of the analysis of samples of atmospheric aerosols taken outside U.S. territory in the period from Feb. 20 to 25," Mr. Gerasimov said.

"Radioactive isotopes have been detected in the samples. Their existence in the atmosphere can only be attributed to a nuclear explosion."

Mr. Gerasimov noted that the United States was the only country conducting nuclear tests at that time, as the Soviet Union was still observing its unilateral moratorium begun on Aug. 6, 1985 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan.

The Kremlin resumed nuclear blasts later that month, however, claiming it could no longer jeopardise its military security in the face of continued U.S. testing. The Soviets have detonated seven Soviet test explosions since Feb. 28.

Gunmen kill youth in renewed Belfast violence

BELFAST (R) — A young man was shot dead and over 20 vehicles were hijacked and set on fire on a second successive evening of violence in Northern Ireland.

The violence Thursday followed clashes Wednesday night between police and mourners at the funeral of a guerrilla fighter of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), dedicated to overthrowing British rule in Northern Ireland.

Police said the 18-year-old man was killed by a gang of masked and armed men who drove up to his West Belfast home and shot him several times.

The police said they were uncertain whether the murder was a sectarian killing, although several Catholics have been killed by Protestant extremists in the district in recent years.

The firebomb was thrown into the front window of Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers' house but he extinguished the blaze before it caused serious damage, police said.

Police spokesman Ger De Jong said Thursday the leader of The Netherlands and his wife, Ria, were in the front room of the house when the device was

Firebomb thrown into Dutch premier's house

thrown, but not injured. The fire damaged curtains, carpet and a sideboard before Mr. Lubbers managed to put out the flames and throw the remains of the bomb into the street.

De Jong said no one had claimed responsibility for the attack. Mr. Lubbers' house is not usually guarded, but is checked regularly by patrolling policemen.

S. African envoy rebuked by Australia over expulsion

CANBERRA (R) — South African Ambassador Cornelius Bastiaanse received a strong rebuke from the Australian Foreign Affairs Department Friday over the expulsion of journalist Richard Carleton from South Africa, a department spokesman said.

Mr. Bastiaanse spent about 15 minutes with senior officials who conveyed Australia's anger over the expulsion of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) journalist and his producer Jennifer Ainge two days ago.

The spokesman said the protest was "very much along the lines expressed by the Prime Minister (Bob Hawke) yesterday."

When asked about the tone of the meeting, the spokesman said: "It's very hard to see it as friendly."

Mr. Hawke told reporters Thursday: "This (expulsion) is further evidence of the totally obnoxious nature of that regime."

Mr. Bastiaanse emerged smiling from the meeting to be driven away without answering questions from reporters.

In a statement later he said it was up to the South African government to comment on the discussion at the department.

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Ortega blames Reagan in assassination plot

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has said he held U.S. President Ronald Reagan indirectly responsible for a plot by two American right-wing extremists to assassinate him.

"It is clear that this is a product of President Reagan's hysteria against Nicaragua," Mr. Ortega told reporters, referring to the plot revealed by the U.S. Justice Department Thursday.

"Because of President Reagan's policy (against Nicaragua), many people like the two people being accused may think it is correct to assassinate the president of Nicaragua," Mr. Ortega said.

Mr. Reagan has called Mr. Ortega a "petty dictator" and Washington finances an estimated 15,000 rebels battling to topple the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

The U.S. Justice Department Thursday said two right-wing extremists, Donnell Howard and John Norris, were charged with conspiring last December and January to kill Mr. Ortega.

The plot was thwarted when an individual recruited for the operation contacted the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), department officials said.

Mr. Ortega said Nicaragua previously had thwarted attempts promoted by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to assassinate him and other Sandinista leaders, but gave no details.

He said the two men accused in the plot might have been "indirectly manipulated" by the CIA.

An indictment against the two plotters said they planned a reconnaissance mission to Nicaragua and Honduras to gather information to use in the assassination.

Mr. Ortega was visiting a school for hearing-impaired children, accompanied by Academy Award winning actress Marlee Matlin, who won an Oscar last month for her starring role in "Children of a Lesser God."

"Whatever dreams the Nicaraguans may have, they should never abandon them," said the actress, speaking in sign language and through an interpreter.

Ms. Matlin is now performing in a Hollywood film being made here about a 19th century American adventurer, William Walker, who led a band of 50 mercenaries to Nicaragua in 1855, took over the country and ruled for two years as president.

Lange says KGB lost an argument over expulsion

WELLINGTON (R) — Prime Minister David Lange said Friday he believed the Soviet Union's expulsion of a New Zealand embassy maintenance man indicated that the KGB had lost an argument with the government in Moscow.

Mr. Lange told reporters that attaché David Nicol, 28, who was posted to Moscow almost 11 months ago, was not a spy.

The Soviet Union Thursday declared Nicol to be "persona non grata" and ordered him to leave the country within seven days for "activities incompatible with the status of a diplomatic representative."

The action followed New Zealand's expulsion of Sergei Budnik, a senior counsellor at the Soviet embassy in Wellington, who was said by Mr. Lange to have been identified as a KGB officer. He left the country on April 29 and some media commentators have expressed surprise that Moscow did not retaliate immediately.

Mr. Lange said Friday that Mr. Budnik had commented "in a very KGB-way" before leaving that Moscow should respond firmly. But Nicol ranked sixth among the nine New Zealanders in Moscow.

"I think it's pretty clear there are competing forces (in Moscow) and they bartered it through," he added.

"Mr. Budnik was certainly very straightforward about what he thought should happen. What happened in the end... was that they seemed to think they had to do something otherwise they would have looked to have admitted everything (concerning Budnik)."

"So they picked on someone no one would believe was engaged in spying and hoped to let the matter end like that."

Mr. Lange believed that if the KGB had his way a higher ranking New Zealander would have been expelled.

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COLUMNS 7&8

Ancient cemetery found in Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) — A bulldozer levelling ground in Bahrain suddenly toppled into a hole and found itself in the middle of what appears to be an ancient cemetery, a newspaper reported Friday. Bahrain's Akhbar Al Khaleej daily said many little rooms, probably old burial grounds, led off from the hole. The local Antiquities Department immediately ordered all work in the area stopped until the find could be evaluated and its period identified. Antiquities in Bahrain, an island state in the Gulf, date back to its pre-Islamic Hellenistic period about 2,000 years ago and also include burial mounds of the Dilmun civilisation 4,000 years ago.

China restores tomb of Genghis Khan

PEKING (R) — China has restored the tomb of Genghis Khan, who is still honoured as a national hero among Mongolians despite his reputation for barbarity in the West. The New China News Agency has said that the equivalent of \$800,000 had been spent on renovations to the tomb which include a display of Genghis Khan's whip, saddle and sabre. People in what is now the inner Mongolian region of China have gathered at the site for harvest ceremonies annually since Genghis Khan's death in 1227. The agency said. The spread of his empire across Asia terrified Europe 800 years ago, especially as he had a record of cruelty which included such practices as decorating monuments with the skulls of his victims.

U.S. Congressman dies of AIDS

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Republican congressman died Thursday from a bacterial infection brought on by AIDS contracted from a blood transfusion, his office said. A statement issued by the office of Representative Stewart B. McKinney, 56, quoted the congressman's personal physician, Dr. Cesar Caceres, as saying Mr. McKinney contracted the disease from blood transfusions he received while undergoing heart-bypass surgery in 1979. The statement said: "Stewart McKinney died of pneumocystis pneumonia, a bacterial infection brought on by acquired immune deficiency syndrome."

Syphilis cases on the rise in U.S.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The number of reported syphilis cases in the United States has increased dramatically in the first three months of 1987, nearly doubling in Los Angeles county, South Florida and New York City, according to a published report. The increase appears to be mostly among heterosexuals, often female prostitutes and intravenous drug users, public health officials told the Los Angeles Times. They cautioned, however, that the outbreaks still are under investigation and that different factors may explain the venereal disease's increase. The number of syphilis cases nationwide had been on the decrease since 1982. But cases of infectious syphilis increased nationally about 25 per cent in the first three months of 1987 compared to the same period in 1986, according to the Federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. In Los Angeles county, syphilis cases increased about 95 per cent, in Florida 97.4 per cent, and in New York City 103.5 per cent, the newspaper said.

Welles' ashes buried in Spanish well

RONDA, Spain (AP) — The ashes of Orson Welles were buried Thursday in a dry well in the patio of the ranch in this southern Spanish town belonging to his longtime friend and Spanish bullfighter Antonio Ordonez. The simple ceremony broadcast on the afternoon news programme of Spanish television showed Welles' daughter Beatrice, 31, dressed in black and crying. Ordonez lowered the urn into the well between two oak trees on what would have been the actor and film director's 72nd birthday. The director of Citizen Kane (1941) and the Lady from Shanghai (1947) died in October 1985 at his home in California. He had requested that his ashes be buried on Ordonez's farm. Ordonez threw sand from the Ronda bullring over the well, a gesture he said was "a symbol of the love Welles felt for the bullfight world," and their friendship.

Climbers claim evidence of 'Yeti'

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, England (AP) — Mountaineer Chris Bonington has said his climbing team recently discovered a creature's footprints in snow on an unscalable Himalayan peak, again raising questions about the existence of a "Yeti" or abominable snowman. Bonington, 52, said his five-man team, including three Norwegians, photographed the footprints at about 16,000 feet (5,000 metres) up the 23,237-foot (7,082-metre) Menglungtse. The photographs have not yet been developed, he said.

Thieves nabbed by police trap

DHAKA (R) — Four knife-wielding muggers ended up in custody when they picked the wrong target — the police. They fell into a trap organised by detectives disguised as rich-looking bus passengers in Dhaka's teeming Gullistan area, police said. As the young men tried to snatch their handbags and suitcases, the policemen pulled out revolvers and herded the criminals to prison.

Taunted workers get 'abuse allowance'

SYDNEY (R) — Workers building a pedestrian mall in central Sydney have been awarded an extra 45 dollars (\$32) a week as an "abuse allowance" because of taunts by angry citizens. The Federal Arbitration Commission made the award after the workers claimed they had been the target of verbal and physical abuse from shoppers inconvenienced by the construction work. "Everybody yells at us. We are in a no-win situation," said one of the workers who belong to the powerful Builders Workers Industrial Union.

Bacon portrait sold for \$1.76m

NEW YORK (R) — A portrait by Francis Bacon sold at auction for \$1.76 million, the highest price ever for a contemporary British artist, Christie's said. The painting, Study For Portrait II, which began as a study of Bacon's friend, art critic David Sylvester, was bought by Swiss art dealer Jan Krugier, who also bought a second Bacon painting for \$1.43 million, another home official Robin Riley said. The Bacon portrait had belonged to Belgium's Lambert Collection. Krugier, who lives in Geneva, said in a telephone interview: "I'm very happy. These are extremely rare pieces. It has always been my dream to have one." He added: "I believe that Bacon is the greatest living artist... these are masterpieces." Another record was set when Andy Warhol's White Car Crash X 19 fetched \$660,000. The silk-screen, a work from the late artist's seminal pop period, brought in the highest price ever paid at auction for a Warhol, Riley said.

Teen computer 'hackers' caught

BEAVER DAM, Wisconsin (R) — Six teenagers used computers to steal long-distance telephone codes and make \$40,000 worth of illegal calls, including a conference hookup which lasted for 12 hours, police have said. The youths, aged 13 to 17, have not been charged but will be turned over to juvenile authorities, the county sheriff's office said. The ring used personal computers to break into electronic records which contained credit card numbers and other telephone codes, police said. Over the course of three days, they made 2,000 calls costing about \$40,000 which did not show up on their parents' bills. One conference call to locations in New York and Maryland involved 22 people and lasted for 12 hours, officials said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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HOLD DECLARER TO A GUESS

Both vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♠ 7 3
♥ Q J 9 8 2
♦ K Q 5
♣ A K Q
WEST
♠ K 2
♥ A 7 6 4
♦ 7 6 4 3
♣ 10 8 7
EAST
♠ J 9 6 4
♥ 10 8 3
♦ J 10 8
♣ 6 4 3
SOUTH
♠ A Q 10 8 5
♥ K
♦ A 9 2
♣ J 9 5 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass 6 ♠ Pass
6 NT Pass Pass
Opening lead: Seven of ♣

Whether you are declaring or defending, life is much easier if you know where you are going. This hand from a team match illustrates our point.

Since he had a five-card heart suit and a weak doubleton in spades, North eschewed an opening bid of one no trump in favor of one heart. That led to problems when South responded one spade, since a rebid of one no trump would have been an underbid while two no trump would have been a stretch. Both Norths temporized by bidding a three-card club suit, and six no trump was reached at

both tables, at one after the auction shown above.

Both Wests made a passive diamond lead, and both declarers correctly judged to go after hearts first. They won the opening lead in dummy and continued with a heart to the king. One West decided he could not look for better, so he took his ace and continued with a diamond. That, too, was won in dummy, and when the ten of hearts dropped declarer had 12 tricks without a finesse: one spade, four hearts, three diamonds and four clubs.

At the other table West allowed the king of hearts to win. Declarer crossed to the queen of clubs and led the queen of hearts, and West held up once more. Now declarer was in a dilemma.

He had only 10 tricks available, and to make the two he was short to fulfill his contract, he needed either two winning spade finesses or a right view in hearts. But which heart was going to come down on the third round: the ace, in which case declarer had to lead a low heart from the table, or the ten, in which event it was necessary to continue with the jack? He opted for a low heart. East's ten won and a spade shift assured a two trick defeat. But it was really no guess. Had West started with three hearts to the ace, he could have won the second trick in the suit to defeat the contract.

Bokassa accused of embezzlement

BANGUI (R) — Ousted Central African dictator Jean-Bedel Bokassa has been accused of embezzling funds from the state-run Social Security Agency.

The 65-year-old former emperor or is being tried on a variety of crimes ranging from murder to cannibalism and embezzlement.

On Thursday Camille Malikanga, a senior controller with the Social Security Agency, told the court Bokassa pocketed up to \$13.3 million in contributions while he held the social affairs portfolio between 1974 and 1976.

Mr. Malikanga said two of Bokassa's cousins, Michel Maleyemango and Jean Gombo, both former heads of the Social Security Agency, had also been involved in the embezzlement.

The two men were in court. They denied the charge and challenged Mr. Malikanga to produce proof.

The end of the trial, which opened in November, has been postponed several times and is now scheduled for May 15.

Bokassa, who was toppled in a French-engineered coup in 1979, returned home unexpectedly last September.

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States and two other countries have joined Israel in appealing to the U.N. administration to allow more public access to 8,000 confidential files on Nazi war crimes.

The new appeals come amid a flurry of actions worldwide against suspected war criminals, including Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, the former U.N. secretary-general. It was the disclosure of Dr. Waldheim's file in the archives of the defunct U.N. War Crimes Commission that touched off Israel's campaign for public access to the documents.

Much of the information in the files already is in the public domain, but Israel contends that the access restrictions could shield war criminals from justice.

The files — containing the names of 36,000 accused war criminals, suspects and witnesses — are now locked in two large safes at the U.N. Archives in New York City.

Currently, only member governments of the United Nations, not individuals or organisations, may review the files, and only on the condition that names of specific suspects are provided.